Monday
4th April, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

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CONTENTS

Volume III—18th March to 7th April, 1949

	Pages
FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1605—59
Unstarred Question and Answer	1659
SATURDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1949—	
Declaration by Members	1661
Starred Questions and Answers	1661—88
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1688—90
Short Notice Questions and Answers	1690—93
MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1695—1726
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1727
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1727—32
Short Notice Questions and Answers	1733—34
TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1735—67
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1767—68
WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1769—92
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1792—94
Short Notice Question and Answer	1795—96
THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1797—1831
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1831—34
Short Notice Question and Answer	1834—35
FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1837—80
MONDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1881—1907
Unstarred Question and Answer	1907—08
TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1909—42
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1942—43
WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1945—91
Unstarred Question and Answer	1991—92
THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	1993—2017
Unstarred Question and Answer	2017—18
FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	2019—59
Unstarred Questions and Answers	2059
MONDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1949—	
Starred Questions and Answers	2061—2100
Unstarred Questions and Answers	2100—08

TUESDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1949—

Starred Questions and Answers . . . . . 2109—23, 2126—64
Repetition of Questions involving enormous labour in preparation of answers 2124—25
Postponed Starred Question and Answer 2165
Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . . 2165—75

WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1949—

Starred Questions and Answers . . . . . 2177—2224
Unstarred Questions and Answers 2225

THURSDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1949—

Starred Questions and Answers . . . . 2227—62
Unstarred Question and Answer . . . . 2262—63
Statements laid on the Table . . . . 2263—77

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 4th April, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

STEPS TO IMPROVE CONDITION OF TECHNICIANS

****1588. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether the Honourable Minister at the annual general meeting of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association held at Calcutta in the last week of December, 1948, remarked about the treatment meted out to Technicians in India?

(b) If so, how many such persons are affected and what steps do Government intend to take to improve their conditions?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) I referred generally to the cases of technicians who failed to find employment in the country.

(b) No list is available.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what terms are offered to technicians who are trained in foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It depends on the nature of work done and the terms often vary from firm to firm.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the steps that Government intend to take about employing these people?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are pressing upon the industries to absorb as many foreign qualified technicians as possible and we are employing them ourselves whenever necessary.

Mr. Homi Mody: Is it a fact that the number of foreign qualified Indians is greatly in excess of what can be absorbed by Government or by industry? If so, will Government consider the advisability of stopping sending people abroad, unless employment is assured for them?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think it is correct to say that the number is greater but there is certainly some maladjustment. As far as Government are concerned, they have decided that when Government scholars are sent abroad for foreign training it will be decided beforehand as to how they will be absorbed on their return. That policy will be adhered to in future.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how many industrial concerns have engaged these foreign qualified technicians?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not possible to say that.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Do Government maintain a list of these foreign qualified young men to see whether they are absorbed?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are maintaining a list now and we are in touch not only with the scholars but also with the firms.

CLOTH AND YARN SOLD TO PAKISTAN UNDER INTER-DOMINION TRADE AGREEMENT

*1589. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity of cloth and yarn to be sold to Pakistan during the year under the Inter-Dominion Trade Agreement of May, 1948 and the supplementary agreement of 10th November, 1948 and the rates at which they are sold?

(b) Is the payment made in cash or kind? If it is in kind, what are the articles Pakistan has agreed to supply to India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 400,000 bales of cloth and yarn are to be sold to Pakistan under the Inter-Dominion Trade Agreement. One fourth of this total quantity would be in the form of yarn.

For cloth supplied to them, Pakistan will pay to the Government of India the controlled ex-mill price plus the fixed exporter's margin of fifteen per cent. plus the export duty of ten per cent. as also the usual excise duty on cloth. For yarn, Pakistan will pay the controlled price plus exporter's margin of ten per cent.

(b) Pakistan would pay by Irrevocable Letters of Credit payable to the Government of India.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is payment made against delivery or after some period?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, letters of credit are to be opened in banks here and delivery will be on payment.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have they taken delivery so far and are they taking delivery according to agreement? Or are there any arrears?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, they are taking much less; only about 4,000 or 5,000 bales have been taken up till now.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What will happen if they do not take delivery within the period of delivery?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That will be considered; it is possible that it may lapse.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Is it a fact that cloth is smuggled to Pakistan? If so, may I know how much has been seized and how many persons have been prosecuted and convicted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think it arises out of this.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is there any provision in the agreement in the event of their taking no delivery? Will it lapse?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no specific provision. The understanding is that if the cloth is not removed within time it will lapse.

FISH FREEZING PLANTS FROM U.S.A.

*1590. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that four fish freezing plants have arrived in India from America and if so, what is the total cost thereof and where are they to be installed?

(b) Are these plants to be run and maintained by Government or given over to private agencies and if the latter, on what conditions?

(c) What are the economic advantages to be gained by installing such plants?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Only one plant has been ordered, the machinery and equipment from the U.S.A. and the insulation cork from Portugal. The cost will be about rupees five lakhs. The plant will be installed at the Sassoon Docks, Bombay. Part of it has already arrived and part is expected within a couple of months.

(b) The plant, which is being installed for conducting research and experiments in the most suitable methods of preservation and storage of fish under tropical conditions, will be maintained by Government and run under the control of the Central Fisheries Research Station, Bombay.

(c) Fish being a highly perishable commodity cannot be transported over any distances in the fresh state. Unless, therefore, properly preserved by treatment in a cold storage plant or with ice, fish has to be consumed at or near the fishing centres. Cold Storage plants even in the colder climates of Europe and America have provided a solution of the very complex problems involved in the transport of fresh fish, and reduced spoilage to the minimum. The proposed Cold Storage plant is being installed at Bombay for obtaining essential data for the working of such plants under tropical conditions.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: With regard to the import of this fish-freezing plant may I know how many ammonia compressors have been ordered and whether they have arrived?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would require notice.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the Madras Government have made a request for a fish-freezing plant?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They are introducing a plant in their area.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the capacity of this plant?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Five hundred tons.

Srcematty Annie Mascarene: If the catch is far below the demand how are they going to preserve the fish?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are trying to increase the catch.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know if any more plants are ordered or expected?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I shall require notice.

REPORT OF AMERICAN EXPERTS ON DEVELOPMENT OF GROUND WATER RESOURCES IN GANGETIC PLAIN

*1591. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Miniater of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the report that has been submitted by the two American experts who carried on research on tubewells in this country?

(b) What are the opinions of the Irrigation Advisers of different Provincial Governments to whom the report was submitted for examination?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Messrs. Johnston International of California were invited by the Government of India to carry out a survey and submit a report on the Development of ground water resources in the Gangetic plain. The gist of the survey conducted by the Irrigation Engineer sent by the firm is that ground water supplies in the Gangetic plain are excellent and can be economically tapped for irrigation purposes. The American firm is prepared to undertake the construction of a minimum of 1,000 tubewells per year in the Gangetic area covering the East Punjab, United Provinces, and Bihar. They have submitted tentative estimates of cost per well of an average discharge of 3·4 cusecs.

(b) Their opinions were not called for. But the Provincial Governments concerned have expressed their view in favour of a scheme on similar lines. No final decision has been taken regarding the specific proposal contained in the Report.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What is the average life of such a tube-well?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think it is about 25 years.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What is the minimum number of years for which these tube-wells must work in order to realise the cost on them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not got that figure.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know whether tube-well irrigation is more or less costly than canal irrigation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is not a question of its being more or less costly. Where canal irrigation is possible that is preferable; but where it is not possible we have to go in for tube-wells with a view to utilise the resources that are under the ground.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Will tube-well irrigation be successful in the different provinces?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: Have Government made any plan in regard to these tube-wells and has it been sent to the provinces where it is to be executed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is a plan for the Gangetic plain, i.e., East Punjab, Bihar and U.P. because surveys there have shown that there are underground resources of water. Surveys have to be undertaken in the other provinces and States to find out whether such resources exist there.

Seth Govind Das: When is this survey in other provinces going to commence?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is a matter for the Geological Survey which is under the Works, Mines and Power Ministry.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are there any firms in India who can do the boring of tube-wells in the Gangetic plain?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, there are.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Why did not Government contact them when they complied with the previous plan of boring tube-wells in the U.P.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: To the extent that the Indian firms have the requisite material they will be used. But in the case of American firms they will be able to bring a large supply of equipment which is not available here, whereas the Indian firms will have to import all that equipment. The American firms have greater facilities but, as I said, no final decision has been taken.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will these equipments be purchased through Indian agents?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They will be purchased through the Indian Supply Mission in Washington.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Why is the life of a tube-well so short? Does the water dry up or is it that the tube-well does not draw water?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is a certain encasement which is to be used on these tube-wells, and that has to be renewed after 25 years.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I know the number of tube wells that have been sunk so far?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In the course of training our pupils constructed about 40 tube-wells.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, the Honourable Minister has stated that apart from the Gangetic Plain, similar tappings were carried on in a State. May I know the name of the State?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not remember the name of the State.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know why the Government is making these purchases in America while there are firms who are prepared to tender for the supply of these equipments here in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We are not making any purchases. The whole question is under examination and we have not yet come to any decision.

Complaint Books at Railway Stations

*1592. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether complaint books have been maintained at all railway stations?

(b) Is action taken on the complaints entered in these books?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) No. Complaint books have been maintained at important stations only.

(b) The instructions are that every complaint should be immediately enquired into and suitable action taken.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Against which railway were the largest number of complaints received last year?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I am afraid I have not those figures.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the complaint book is placed in a conspicuous place or kept with the Station Master?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Formerly, there were more than one complaint book in one station. Now they have been consolidated and there will be one complaint book with the Assistant Station Master.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps taken to inform the complainants of the results of the complaints that they have made?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Yes, Sir. The instructions are that the authorities responsible should write to each complainant informing him of the action taken.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Who will deal with these complaints? The Managers of Railways or the Special Officer appointed by the Railway Board at Headquarters?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It is the duty of each railway administration to deal with these complaints.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any specified penalty for non-production of complaint books when required?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Action will be taken against the Assistant Station Master or the Station Master if there is such a refusal.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Have the people in the villages been informed of the existence of these complaint books and if so, how?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: At each station where there is a complaint book, notices are put up at all places informing the people where the complaint book is kept.

FORCED LANDING OF DAKOTA NEAR JAMMU

*1593. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on or about the 16th January, 1949 a Dakota of the Indian National Airways carrying military stores and passengers which left Delhi for Srinagar had to make a forced landing near Jammu?

(b) How many passengers and how much cargo were carried by the said aircraft?

(c) Have the whereabouts of the aircraft been located?

(d) What efforts were made to search for the plane?

Shri Khurshed Lal: (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) A Dakota belonging to the Dalmia Jain Airways carrying passengers and cargo crashed near Banihal Pass on the 16th January, 1949. It carried no military stores.

(b) The aircraft carried 9 passengers, 4 crew and a freight of 3,514 lbs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Aircraft of the Royal Indian Air Force and Dalmia Jain Airways and ground parties organised by the army went out in search of the missing plane and succeeded in locating the wreckage on the 20th January, 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any official enquiry has been made and what is the result of that enquiry?

Shri Khurshed Lal: As soon as the plane was located, officers of the Civil Aviation Department went to make enquiries but even up till now most of the wreckage is under snow and the enquiry cannot be completed until the ice melts.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know who constituted the enquiry?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is no enquiry committee. The Chief Inspector of Accidents went there.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether actually an enquiry committee was set up by Government and who were the individuals?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It was the duty of the Chief Inspector of Accidents to investigate into this. Immediately after the wreckage had been located, he went there and did a part of the enquiry. But the enquiry will not be completed till the ice has melted.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Even under the rules, is not Government bound to make a legal enquiry into the matter?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has said.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: He said an official went to see!

Mr. Speaker: That is an enquiry!

Shri R. K. Sidhva: That is not an enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was the plane equipped with wireless apparatus?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Did it send any wireless message before the forced landing?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Some such message was received.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that another plane, which took off ten minutes before this plane, had returned from Banihal Pass?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I cannot say about the time but one plane which could not locate the landing ground at Srinagar returned.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What were the number of occasions that wireless messages were received?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice.

Mr. Frank Anthony: How old was the apparatus and how long was it in service?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice.

Shri Raj Bahadur: How many passengers were hurt or killed?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All the passengers were killed.

LOANS GIVEN TO PROVINCES FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD' SCHEMES

†*1594. **Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total amount of loan given from the Government of India to each province to develop agriculturally?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A statement showing the loans sanctioned by the Government of India during the years 1943-44 to 1948-49 for 'Grow More Food' schemes is laid on the table of the House. Block loans are also given to the Provinces for general development and some part of these loans may have been used by Provinces for agricultural development. Information about this is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

STATEMENT

Loans sanctioned by the Government of India during 1943—49 for G. M. F. Schemes.

Name of the Province.	1943-44 Loan	1944-45 Loan	1945-46 Loan	1946-47 Loan	1947-48 Loan	1948-49 Loan	Grand Total 1943-44 to 1948-49 Loan
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam	9,01,867	10,88,100	13,08,455	1,50,700	..	..	34,47,122
Bengal	62,15,000	23,15,000	41,40,000	41,66,700	..	..	1,88,17,200
Bihar	..	9,64,000	..	..	..	..	9,64,000
Bombay	3,00,000	6,00,000	8,22,500	..	..	..	17,22,500
C. P. and Berar	39,50,000	31,88,970	41,35,732	40,10,108	98,90,500	..	2,51,55,360
Madras	45,00,000	16,25,000	45,62,500	85,00,000	..	..	1,91,87,500
N. W. F. P.	..	12,59,300	14,31,000	..	..	..	26,90,300
Orissa	5,77,300	14,67,000	21,70,147	16,54,785	30,00,000	..	88,69,332
Punjab	..	..	..		..	..	..
Sind	..	..		..	..	..	..
U. P.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ajmer-Merwara		2,34,250	3,66,780	7,91,220	3,25,000	4,62,950	21,80,120
Baluchistan		1,66,400	10,54,000	10,25,000	..	..	22,45,400
Coorg		..	..	..	3,73,250	..	3,73,250
Delhi	..	54,000	60,000	46,000	50,000	2,50,000	4,59,000
Total	1,64,44,167	1,29,40,620	2,00,51,584	2,03,43,513	1,36,38,750	7,12,950	8,41,31,534

TECHNICAL ADVISER FOR DECORTICATION AND REFINING OF SEEDS

†*1595. **Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have invited any Technical Adviser from abroad to advise them in matters relating to decortication of seeds and refining equipment, and technique?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

GAZETTED OFFICERS TRIED FOR CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS

*1596. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many gazetted officers were tried for corruption in the Railways during the year 1947-48?

(b) How many of them were convicted?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Eighteen during the period from 1942-48.

(b) Four.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Were all these officers connected with Wagon Supply convicted?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I would require notice of that question.

EXPENDITURE ON RECOVERY OF MUSLIM ABDUCTED WOMEN

*1597. **Lala Achint Ram:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state the extent of the machinery employed by the Government of India and the amount which the Government of India are spending per mensem on the recovery of Muslim abducted women in India?

(b) What is the total expenditure so far incurred by Government on this work?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) With regard to the machinery employed by the Government of India on the recovery of abducted women in India, attention is invited to the reply given to Question No. 1101, on 16th March, 1949. The exact amount of expenditure incurred per mensem on the recovery of Muslim abducted women in India cannot be stated, because recoveries are not confined to women professing any particular faith or religion.

(b) Till recently no separate account was maintained for the recovery of abducted women, as this was considered part of the work of evacuation and, before September last the expenditure on recoveries in India was incurred mainly by the Dominion of Pakistan, whereas recoveries in Pakistan were conducted and paid for by the Government of India. It is therefore not possible to state how much money has so far been spent on recovery of abducted women, as such.

RAILWAY LINE TO BASTAR STATE

*1598. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any plan to connect Bastar State with a Railway line;

(b) if so, what the plan is and how long they would take to implement it;

(c) whether it is a fact that sometime past the Hyderabad State proposed to construct a railway line in Bastar State;

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) if so, whether Government have obtained the plan; and

(e) whether they propose to execute it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) The following four proposals are under consideration:

(i) Raipur-Dhamtari-Jagdalpur;

(ii) Nagpur-Naghbir-BhanpratappurJagdalpur;

(iii) Nagpur-Naghbir-Bhairamgarh-Jagdalpur; and

(iv) Ramgundam-Bhairamgarh-Jagdalpur;

and in all cases from Jagdalpur onwards to meet Raipur-Vizianagram Chord at Kottavalsa or Rayaghada. Survey Reports of these projects are under examination and a comprehensive memorandum will, in due course, be placed before the Central Board of Transport to enable them to take a decision on the most economical rail connection required for tapping the mineral wealth of the area. At this stage the Government are, therefore, not in a position to state how long it would take to implement the plan.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes; the Hyderabad proposal was to construct a railway from Ramgundam on their system to the Bailadilla iron ore deposits. This forms part of proposal (iv) of the reply to part (a) of the question.

(e) As already stated in reply to part (b), the project will be considered by the Central Board of Transport along with the three other projects, before a decision is taken.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Has the Hyderabad proposal which has come to the Government been sanctioned by the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No: it is being examined along with the rest.

Seth Govind Das: Can Government fix roughly sometime either next year or the year after when this project will be taken in hand? At least by what time Government expect to complete it?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We have made no provision for any of these projects in 1949-50 but in the course of this year I think the Central Board of Transport will take some decision and will try to implement that decision in the course of 1951-52.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: What is the length of the line which this project involves and the proximate cost?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I shall give the honourable member that information by a separate letter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any of these proposed lines intended to connect those places with the Vizagapatam Harbour?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The project on the eastern side meeting either at Raipur or Kottavalasa is the nearest.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Which will be the shortest line out of these four?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The first three are North to South Lines and the fourth is an East to West line. Judging merely by the length of the lines on the map I should say that the east to west line will be the shortest.

RUNNING OF FAST TRAINS ON KATNI-BINA LINE

*1599. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have got any plan to change the rails on the Katni-Bina branch line with a view to run express and mail trains on this section?

(b) If so, how far has the plan been carried out and how long would it take to complete it?

(c) What existing or fresh express or mail trains do Government propose to run on this section?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The old rails of Katni-Bina Branch line are being changed to enable engines with heavier axle loads to run on the section.

(b) Out of a total length of 163 miles, relaying of 71 miles has been completed. Relaying of another 57 miles is expected to be completed in 1949-50 financial year. The balance of 35 miles is programmed to be relaid in 1950-51.

(c) Two passenger trains each way run at present on this branch. It is not contemplated to run Mail or Express trains, in addition.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that there is no fast train in that province either between Katni and Bina or between Nagpur and Jagdalpur? Are Government going to leave that province as it is without any fast trains?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Fast trains are not provided on a provincial basis.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that other provinces have some fast trains and have some inter-communication between themselves through fast trains?

Mr. Speaker: It is an argument.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has Government any plan for the utilisation of these old rails? Are they going to be utilized for laying other lines?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: As I have already pointed out some old rails from other sections also are being used on these lines. We are using old rails as much as possible. Sometimes these old rails become unusable and then they are scrapped.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many passengers were carried on the Katni-Bina section during the last year?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not think it arises out of the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the passenger traffic on the Katni-Bina section increased during the last three years?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I do not know but a survey showed that there was no scope for either an express or mail train.

STOCKING AND PRESERVATION OF IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

*1600. **Shri R. L. Malviya:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state what is the process adopted by Government to stock and preserve the imported food grains?

(b) What quantity of the imported food grains has been spoiled in Government godowns and rendered useless for human consumption, during the years 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948?

(c) What is the percentage of loss of food gains to the total imports and what are the reasons for the loss?

(d) What steps have Government taken or propose to take to protect and preserve the food grains from destruction?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (d). Imported food grains which have to be stored by the Central Government are kept in damp-proof and ventilated godowns, arranged in stacks with dunnage below, to allow aeration on all sides of each stack. The stocks are periodically inspected by technical staff who dust the bags with insecticide and also fumigate, where stocks require fumigation. The grain is, as a rule, issued in the order of quality, that is, that which cannot stand long storage is issued earlier.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Quantity of grain spoilt and its percentage to total imports

Year	Quantity spoilt (in tons)	Percentage of loss to total imports	Reasons for loss
1945	Figures not available		
1946	61·057	·0028	Due to insects and damp and at times to delayed distribution.
1947	236·47	·01	
1948	6265·57	·22	

Shri R. K. Sidhva: With reference to part (b) of the question what is the percentage of loss?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In 1946 it was ·0028, in 1947 it was ·01 and in 1948 it was ·22 per cent.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the amount of grain which is spoilt by this stocking is practically the same as we are importing every year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No. But it is true that grain gets spoilt in course of time during storage and in the course of transit from the central storage godown to the ration shops.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Food Department any idea of grains being spoilt on account of other causes and if so, what is the approximate amount of damage?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There are no other causes except time taken in storage and transit.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that a good deal of stock is spoilt in the Defence Department?

Mr. Speaker: That relates to a different department.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Food Department ought to know this.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will Government consider the desirability of procuring paddy in the place of rice to avoid loss of grain?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It all depends on what we are able to procure. There is not very much choice left to us with regard to importing paddy or rice.

FAILURES OF RAILWAY ENGINES

*1601. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that engine failures are far above the target in all Indian Railways?

(b) What is the target and the actual engine failures in each Railway in India, during the war period, before the war for an equal period, and after the war to date?

(c) What are the reasons for this?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). It is the aim of every railway not to have any engine failure. The information required by the honourable member regarding the number of engine failures is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House when ready.

(c) For purposes of statistics, engine failures are classified under the following heads:

(i) Defective design.

(ii) Defective material.

(iii) Bad workmanship:

(a) in Shops,

(b) in Sheds.

(iv) Mismanagement by crew.

(v) (a) Bad Fuel, (b) Bad water.

(vi) Miscellaneous.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What are the measures taken by Government to arrest engine failures?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Every engine failure is investigated and its cause ascertained and steps are taken to avoid the defects which may have brought about the failure.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What proportion of engine failures is due to bad fuel?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: As I have told the House already the number of failures under each of these different heads is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Seth Govind Das: How many of these engine failures are to give comfort and a little rest to the drivers who drive those engines?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Does the honourable member mean failure to give them rest?

Seth Govind Das: Failure for the purpose of rest.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: If the honourable member is interested in that aspect I will ask that figures are collected in that respect also.

USE OF CATTLE DUNG AS MANURE

*1502. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cattle dung produced in India in a year, and what percentage of this cow dung is being used for manure and fuel purposes respectively:

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to see that cattle dung is not used for fuel purposes so that the whole of it may be used for manurial purposes only;

(c) the value and quality of cattle dung as manure compared to various types of fertilisers manufactured in India and/or imported from outside; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of India so far to encourage and ensure the utilisation of the whole of cattle dung for manurial purposes and the cost incurred thereon in the years 1947-48 and 1948-49?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Accurate statistics regarding the quantity of cattle dung produced in India are not available but it is estimated at about 800 million tons green weight per year, equivalent to 160 million tons dry weight. It is estimated that roughly 40 to 60 per cent. of the cow-dung is being used for purposes of fuel and the balance as manure.

(b) So long as alternative fuel in sufficient quantities is not made available it will be difficult to stop the use of cattle dung as fuel to encourage the greater utilisation of cattle dung as manure and to minimise its use for fuel. Village Compost Schemes have been started in almost all Provinces under which subsidies and prizes are awarded for greater production of manure and all Provinces and States have been asked to encourage planting of quick growing trees.

(c) The question of the value of different forms of organic manures as compared with inorganic manure is being examined by a Committee of specialists appointed by the Government of India.

(d) Two statements showing (i) the action taken by the Government of India and (ii) the subsidy given to the Provinces for operating village compost schemes during 1947-48 and 1948-49 are placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

(TABLE I)

Note on the progress of village compost schemes in India

The work relating to the composting of rural wastes such as cow dung, farm wastes and litter was taken up by the Government of India in 1944 under Grow More Food Campaign. The progress of work during the last five years is given below :

Year	Number of Rural Compost Centres.	Production of Rural compost	Government of India subsidies.
		Tons.	Rs. A. P.
1944-45	1,838	2,10,000	4,89,450 0 0
1945-46	4,347	5,20,000	3,38,856 0 0
1946-47	7,560	8,29,000	6,66,848 0 0
1947-48 (Indian Union).	27,950	12,68,986	5,26,432 0 0
1948-49 (Estimates).	32,900	15,00,000	4,79,448 8 0

(TABLE II.)

Showing progress made under the Village Compost Schemes during 1947-48.

Serial No.	Provinces	Number of village centres	Production during the year
1	2	3	4
1	Ajmer Merwara	Nil. (700)	Nil. (1,40,000)
2	Assam	Nil (33,660)	Nil (67,12,000)
3	West Bengal	9,081 (40,000)	16,730 (80,00,000)
4	Bihar	Nil (68,670)	Nil (1,37,34,000)
5	Bombay	1,311 (21,350)	76,267 (42,70,000)
6	Central Provinces and Berar	Nil (38,980)	Nil (77,96,000)

1	2	3	4
			Rs.
7	Coorg	175 (300)	2,885 (60,000)
8	Delhi	Nil (300)	Nil (60,000)
9	Madras	2,295 (34,830)	41,600 (69,66,000)
10	Orissa	866 (26,650)	23,674 (53,30,000)
11	East Punjab	222 (15,000)	60,000 (30,00,000)
12	United Provinces	14,000 (1,02,470)	10,18,830 (2,40,94,000)
	Total	27,950 (3,82,810)	12,58,986 (7,65,62,000)

N. B.—Figures within brackets indicate total potential capacity for each area.

STATEMENT II

Showing subsidy given during 1947-48 and 1948-49 on Village Compost Schemes.

Name of the Province	Amount sanctioned during 1947-48	Amount sanctioned during 1948-49
	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmer-Merwara	Nil	5,200 0 0
Assam	18,467 0 0	24,360 0 0
West Bengal	60,000 0 0	Nil
Bihar	Nil	Nil
Bombay	2,40,790 0 0	2,78,075 0 0
Central Provinces and Berar	Nil	26,030 0 0
Coorg	10,875 0 0	5,825 0 0
Madras	13,000 0 0	Nil
Orissa (Combined Scheme)	25,000 0 0	Nil
East Punjab	Nil	55,158 8 0
United Provinces	1,66,800 0 0	75,000 0 0
Total	5,28,932 0 0	4,79,448 8 0

Seth Govind Das: May I know how much money the Government is investing on fertiliser factories and how much subsidy the Government proposes to give for this manure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to say how much is being contributed for setting up the fertiliser factory. I suppose my honourable colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply might be able to give the figure.

Seth Govind Das: May I know how much the Government is proposing to give as subsidy and other help in the shape of money for making this manure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: So far as compost is concerned, as much as a Province requires.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the various methods by which the total annual output of cattle dung is estimated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: By calculating the population of cattle.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: May I know the answer to the question as regards the comparative value of cattle dung as manure when compared to chemical fertilisers?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is a matter which will be examined by a committee of specialists which has been appointed.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Has any attempt been made for growing trees in any Province so as to utilise the wood as fuel in place of cow dung and save the cow dung for manurial purposes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think in U.P. and Bombay special progress has been made in quick growing trees.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Which are the various species of animals included in 'cattle'?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All bovines.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Have any attempts been made to find an equally cheap substitute for fuel so that the cow dung might be spared for manure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I just now said we are trying to increase the production of what are called quick growing trees which grow in two or three years. As soon as sufficient number of such trees are grown in the villages the people will use their wood as fuel and the cow dung will be spared for manurial purposes.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have Government considered the possibility of declaring as illegal the use of cattle dung as fuel?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: This has been considered and rejected because the people generally are not ready for it.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What is the type of trees which the Forest Department has recommended to be grown for the purpose of fuel in the villages?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I do not remember the names.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether sheep and goat come under the category of cattle or not?

Mr. Speaker: He said bovines.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But under what category do sheep and goat come?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: They would not be included under 'bovines'.

MACHINE FOR SEPARATING MANURING SUBSTANCE FROM CATTLE DUNG

*1603. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware that one Professor N. V. Joshi of Poona has invented a machine by which the manuring substance in cattle dung can be separated and the residue used for fuel purposes?

(b) If so, what is the total cost of manufacturing such a plant?

(c) Have Government any plan for encouraging the use of such a plant in the rural areas of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) The estimated cost is Rs. 1,000 per plant per house.

(c) The matter is under investigation at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Some further experiments on the process are being conducted. The

question of encouraging the use of this plant in the rural areas will be considered when the experiment is completed.

Prof N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this experiment is supposed to have been made during the last two years but no beginning has yet been made?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The experiment has been made, but, as I said, the question of finding out whether it will be economically sound has yet to be experimented on a little larger scale. Originally the plant was worth Rs. 250. Later on it was found that a slightly bigger plant will have to be employed for experimenting on a larger scale. The bigger plant is now in use and after the results of the experiment are known we will be able to use it for villages.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the scheme which was required to be prepared a year ago is not yet ready to be submitted to Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to say yes or no to that.

Allotment of Pig Iron, Steel, Hard Coke and Steam Coal to Foundries and Steel Processing Factories

*1604. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that pig iron and steel are released to foundries and steel processing factories by the Government of India and hard coke and steam coal by the Provincial Governments?

(b) If so, are Government aware that for want of co-ordination in the matter of allotment by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, the foundries are not able to work to their full capacities, as at times they are short of one or the other commodity?

(c) What steps do Government intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have received complaints about the inadequacy of allotments of hard coke but not about pig iron. The reasons for inadequate allotments of hard coke are (1) a general shortage of hard coke in the country and (2) transport difficulties.

(c) Steps are being taken to increase the production of hard coke, to improve the transport position and to corelate the allotments of pig iron to the allotments of coke and coal.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Is it not a fact that hard coke is being supplied to *halwais* and others for fuel purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When can the House expect to have the summary of the Steel Experts' report promised by the Honourable Minister some days ago?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Tomorrow or the day after.

Decomposition of Imported Food Grains

*1605. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 550,000 tons of imported food grains held by the Centre as reserve, have decomposed owing to long storage and delayed distribution?

(b) In what places were these grains stored?

(c) Has any inquiry been made into the matter?

(d) What was the reason for such long storage and delayed distribution?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What has been the experience of Government in regard to the loss due to the storage? Has it come down during the last four years or has it remained the same?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say it remains the same but last year there was a special feature. We had a certain quantity of maize which no Province would accept. We tried to give it to Madras and Bombay but beyond a certain quantity they could not accept. A certain amount had to remain unused and it got deteriorated and we sold it to starch factories for about Rs. 2 lakhs.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If not quite decomposed as stated in part (a) of the Question, is it a fact that a lot of grain was unfit for human consumption?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any quantity was decomposed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I have given the figures in a statement which has been placed on the table of the House in reply to an earlier Question dealing with deterioration of foodgrains. As I said, last year a certain quantity—about 5,000 tons—remained unused because no Province would take it, and we sold it to the starch factories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if any effort is being made to convert grain which is thus spoiled for human consumption, into cattle feed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, we also make it available for *gaushalas* for cattle feed.

Shri M Tirumala Rao: May I know what was the loss involved in this decomposed maize which was disposed of for Rs. 2 lakhs?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to work it out now because no particular quantity purchased at a particular rate got spoiled; at the end of 1½ years a certain quantity out of all the purchases remained unused.

EFFECT OF VANASPATI ON HEALTH

*1606. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the results of the experiments already carried out in the Government Laboratory of Izzatnagar on mice about the nutritive value of Vanaspati (vegetable ghee)?

(b) Is it a fact that the results were prominently exhibited at the All-India Government Food and Cattle Show, 1947?

(c) Is it a fact that the experiments at Izzatnagar definitely proved that the continued use of Vanaspati is injurious to health?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). The investigation being conducted at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute as well as at other centres are still in progress and therefore it is not yet possible to state the results achieved.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Is it not a fact that the experiments carried out on mice in Izzatnagar conclusively proved that the consumption of Vanaspati is very harmful as there was death of 50 per cent. of mice fed on Vanaspati?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, that was the result arrived at at Izzatnagar some time ago, but the result arrived at Bangalore was different. In view of the difference of opinion, further experiments were carried on.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know what conclusion was arrived at in the experiments at Bangalore?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The result was that it was not harmful, whereas at Izzatnagar result was that it was harmful.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Will the Government come to some conclusion within a reasonable time and if so what time will they take to do so?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have been promised results by October or November this year.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that at the All-India Food and Cattle Show, 1947, was exhibited a poster like this showing the results of the Izzatnagar laboratory experiments? Is it Government's view that rat's poison is man's food?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it Government's policy, after having experimented on three generations of mice, to await the result of experiments on three generations of men before arriving at a final decision?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That would be a question of nearly 75 years!

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it Government's policy to wait for three generations of men.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government contemplating at least to stop the hydrogenation of this vegetable oil so that it may not be mixed with pure ghee,

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter is under the consideration of Government.

Petrol Shortage in Karnatak

*1607. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement appearing in the *Times of India*, Bombay, dated 14th March, 1949 under the heading "Petrol Shortage in Karnatak-Road Transport affected" issued by the Secretary of the Karnatak Chamber of Commerce;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a shortage of petrol during recent months which has affected the transport of timber, grains, oilseeds, and cotton, throughout Karnatak, dislocating the trade thereby;

(c) if so, what the reasons for it are; and

(d) whether Government have taken any steps in the matter and if so, what they are and when they were taken?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). At the instance of the Government of India, emergency restrictions on the civil consumption of petrol were imposed by Provincial Governments early in March so as to conserve stocks in the event of a Railway strike. Instructions were issued on the 18th March, 1949 to remove forthwith all such restrictions. Twenty-five tank wagons have also been transferred from Calcutta for distributing petrol from the Bombay port. The present stock position in Karnatak is reported to be satisfactory.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS WHO HAVE GONE ON STRIKE

*1608. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Post and Telegraph workers have gone on strike since 9th March, 1949;

(b) if so, how many; and

(c) the number of arrests, preventive or otherwise, that have been made in this connexion since the aforesaid date?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) and (b). Nil.

(c) Thirteen.

RAILWAY WORKERS WHO HAVE GONE ON STRIKE

*1609. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any workers on the Indian railways have gone on strike since 9th March, 1949;

(b) if so, how many on each of the different railways;

(c) whether any attempts at sabotage have taken place; and

(d) the number of arrests, preventive or otherwise, that have been made in this connexion since 9th March, 1949?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Yes.

(b) 67 on the B.B. and C.I., 200 on the S.I. and 39 on the Assam Railway.

(c) Yes.

(d) The number of arrests among Railwaymen made since 9th March, 1949 is 402.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On which Railways were there attempts at sabotage?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The sabotage incidents which occurred were scattered all over the country. If by sabotage the honourable member is referring to such things as placing obstacles on the line, removal of fish plates and bolts and nuts or petrol men being attacked or assaulted, we have had incidents reported from a number of railway lines.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was no single Railway immune from any of these occurrences? Were all Railways affected or was there any single Railway which was not affected?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I cannot remember that any particular Railway was absolutely immune from small incidents of this kind.

TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF TIMBER TO GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JUBBULPORE

*1610. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for the supply of timber to the Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore; if so, upto what date;

(b) whether Messrs. Da Silva and Company, Jubbulpore, applied for a copy of the tender form, and paid Rs. 20 for the same, as prescribed;

(c) whether some ten days after the receipt of the fee, Messrs. Da Silva and Company were informed that no tender forms were available, and were asked to send their tender on their own letter head; and

(d) whether the tender sent by them immediately thereafter was rejected on the ground of its late receipt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes. Tenders were invited by advertisement due for opening on 19th November, 1948.

(b) Yes.

(c) The firm. were informed telegraphically on 15th November, 1948 that they could quote on their own letter head as the tender forms had been sold out.

(d) No. The offer of Messrs. Da Silva was not considered because they had not quoted for the sizes required.

Shri H V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the application of Messrs. Da Silva and Company, with the fee, was received on the 6th of November, but no reply was sent to them till the 15th of November, and then they were asked to apply on their own letter head because tender forms were not available?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the date, but the tender was received within the due date and considered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that they were informed that their tender was rejected because of late receipt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, that cannot be true.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: How many tender forms were sold and how many tenders received?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: About 150 forms were sold in all. Normally about 50 forms are usually cyclostyled, and the forms had to be cyclostyled thrice as the demand was great.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that by the 6th November all the tender forms were sold out?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: In any case I may assure the House that this tender was received within the due date and it was rejected on grounds other than those stated by the honourable member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What were the grounds?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Because lower quotations were accepted. I may tell the House that actually the total purchase made was for Rs. 6,87,500 out of which lowest quotations were accepted to the order of Rs. 6,78,500. The higher quotation was accepted in only one case the value of which was Rs. 9,000. The extra amount involved between the higher quotation and the lower quotation in that case was only Rs. 1,125; the reason for accepting the higher quotation was facility of transport.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Whose tender was accepted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is immaterial. I have not got the name.

Posts of Regional Food Commissioners

*1611. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the posts of Regional Food Commissioners were created;

(b) how many they were; and

(c) how many Regional Commissioners there are at present?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). The following six posts of Regional Food Commissioners were created on the dates shown against each:

R.F.C., Eastern Region, Calcutta, 10th March 1943.
R.F.C., Bombay Region, Bombay, 20th April 1943.

R.F.C., Punjab Region, Lahore, 10th April 1943.
R.F.C., U.P. Region, New Delhi, 10th April 1943.
R.F.C., Madras Region, Madras, 10th April 1943.
R.F.C., Rajputana Region, Ajmer, 10th April 1943.

(c) Three.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What are the salaries and allowances of these Regional Commissioners?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not got the exact figures but I think the salary is somewhere about Rs. 1,600 to 1,800.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know if out of these officers any were superannuated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, one was superannuated but then the pension is included in their salary.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: When are these remaining three Regional Commissioners proposed to be discontinued?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: On the contrary I feel that there should be more men to keep us in touch with what is happening in the Provinces both with regard to their needs of food and as regards procurement and the food situation generally.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are their functions?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Their function is more or less that of liaison between the Centre and the Provinces. They have to find out what the Province's need is, they have to find out how far procurement is progressing and they have to assist the Provinces with regard to movement of food grains in accordance with the plan of the Centre for the supply of food to Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it also their function to see whether the food supplied by the Central Government is really suited to the local needs and how much of it is wasted or lost?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: All that is included in their duties.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it their function to examine the quality arrived at the port?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, that also.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If the Honourable Minister is convinced of the necessity of these Regional Food Commissioners, why did he allow the three posts to fall vacant? What are the reasons?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Some of them fell vacant. One fell vacant because of partition. We had one at Lahore and therefore we had to discontinue the post of Regional Food Commissioner on partition and we had to appoint somebody on a lower level, a Deputy Regional Food Commissioner.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does the Honourable Minister consider their existence necessary even when we stop import of food from outside?

Mr. Speaker: That will be hypothetical at this stage.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir, it has been announced and I am asking a direct question. Is it intended that the posts would be continued even after 1951?

Mr. Speaker: That depends upon the situation in 1951.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is the Madras official in charge of this post a retired and superannuated gentleman?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: He was at Madras but at present he is working here in the Directorate of Food, Delhi. I do not know if the honourable member is referring to Mr. Menon.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is the Bombay Regional Commissioner also superannuated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not know whether he is superannuated, but I think he retired probably before his time.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Would the future vacancies be filled with reference to the Federal Public Services Commission?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These are temporary appointments.

TRACTORS FOR BOMBAY PROVINCE

*1612. **Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the acreage of reclaimable waste land in Bombay Province, including the merged states therein?

(b) What is the number of tractors loaned to Bombay Province by the Central Tractor Organization of India?

(c) Are Government aware that in Bombay Province, especially in Belgaum and Dharwar districts, the demand for tractors by the agriculturists is growing more and more and the Government of Bombay has not been able to satisfy that demand?

(d) Do Government propose to provide the Government of Bombay with more tractors?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The total area of reclaimable waste land in the Bombay Province including the merged States is approximately 1·1 million acres and is made up of 300,000 acres of cultnrable waste land and 800,000 acres of Hariali infected lands.

(b) The Bombay Government have not asked for the loan of any tractors from the Central Government. They have their own tractors.

(c) The Provincial Government who were consulted in the matter have stated that due to the necessity of equitable distribution of tractors throughout the Province, only 50 per cent. of the demand from the districts of Belgaum and Dharwar could be met.

(d) The Government of India will be prepared to arrange for the procurement of additional tractors, if so desired by the Provincial Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How do Government allow the import of these tractors? Is it on Government account or on private account?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: On Government account.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that Government does not allow any profiteering in the importation of tractors by allowing private parties to obtain agencies and importing them?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: On the contrary, whenever Government places any orders the manufacturers give a certain commission to the Central Government. We do not allow all that commission to the agents but a smaller amount. Those commission agents are entitled to a commisaion, under their agreements with the manufacturers.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any factory in India which manufactures tractors or any parts of tractors, and is any factory for the manufacture of these two materials under consideration?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, there is a proposal to have a tractor manufacturing company in India.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: May I know how many tractors are there in Bombay and how many have been provided to Dharwar and Belgaum?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Dharwar was given probably 15 tractors and Belgaum 12. The total number of tractors we gave to Bombay was 61 and they were to receive 55 more, but they cancelled that order. But now they have again asked us to supply 55 tractors.

Sardar Bhupinder Singh Man: Does the Central Tractor Organisation only reclaim the waste land or does it also do subsequent ploughing etc.?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Where the provinces require, we also do the subsequent ploughing.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any proposal for a factory which will prepare only parts of tractors because that is easy to prepare?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no such proposal. The proposal is to have complete tractors manufactured.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the amount intended to be spent on purchase of tractors during the current year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I would not be able to give the figures straightoff.

OILS USED IN SOAP INDUSTRY

*1613. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of oils consumed by the soap industry in India during the last three years; and

(b) whether attempts have been made to find substitutes for the oils so used, in order to save them for direct consumption and for export?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) About 250,000 tons.

(b) Yes, Sir. Provincial Governments have been requested to encourage Mowra plantation so that sufficient Mowra oil may take the place of the edible oils now used for soap making.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF INDIGENOUS DETERGENTS

*1614. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties and quantities of other indigenous detergents, such as *shikaye* and soap-nuts, which have been produced and consumed in India during the last three years;

(b) whether soaps produced from oil are superior to *shikaye* and others as detergents; and

(c) whether any attempts have been made to process the other detergents?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir, not to Government's knowledge.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that many soaps produced from oil are deleterious to the human skin and that men like Mahatma Gandhi and Bernard Shaw have discouraged the use of such soap?

Does Government propose to popularise the use of gram flour, *besan* mixed with milk or buttermilk instead of soap as a cleansing agent?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is no ban on the use of those ingredients.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am asking whether Government propose to popularise them.

USE OF OIL CAKES AS MANURE

*1615. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil cake is used as manure for crops;

(b) if so, the several crops and the quantities of cake used as manure during the last five years; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to promote consumption of oil cakes as food and discourage its use as manure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the available information is placed on the table of the House.

(c) No.

STATEMENT

Quantities of oilcakes used as manure during the five years ending with 1948-49 and the Crops on which they were applied, in various Provinces

Province. 1	1944-45 Tons. 2	1945-46 Tons. 3	1946-47 Tons. 4	1947-48 Tons 5	1948-49 Tons. 6	Crop on which used 7
East Punjab	6·9	5·3	4·7	1·8	Not available.	Sugar-cane
West Bengal	Nil	10,722	9,010	2,369	2,955 (Upto Jan. 49).	Potato, Sugar-cane, Paddy Vegetables and Rabi Crop.
Madras	57,320	1,13,285	2,35,201 (*) 9,850	1,61,051 (*) 2,177	33,737	Paddy (*) Potato (in Mixtures)
Orissa	1,383	932	1,000	1,506 (i) 975	2,321 Not available.	Paddy. (i) For other crops.
Bihar	Not available	Not available	(a) 2,120 (b) 2,142	(a) 7,096 (b) 7,107	(a) 2,903·3 (b) 2,902·3	(a) Sugar-cane. (b) Potato and Dry Crops.
Assam	4,062	1,919	118	111	Nil	Paddy.
United Provinces	5,234	7,259	4,740	5,842	3,305 (Upto December, 48).	Wheat, paddy, maize, sugarcane and vegetable Crops.
Coorg	76	460	442	Nil	160 *2,500	Paddy. *Orange and Coffee.
C. P. and Berar	4,908 623 ..	9,111 550 4,049	9,210 982 6,066	2,039 650 3,105	10,155 1,648 5,862	Paddy. Wheat. Juar.
Bombay	Not available. Do. Do. Do.	32,985 11,862 11,134 Not available.	39,502 9,740 6,103 6,516	34,268 4,698 4,200 3,310	17,164 5,052 10,301 3,954	Paddy. Jowar (Irrigated). Wheat. (Irrigated). Other Crops.

Travancore	681	757	741	1,265	1,286	Paddy.
Cochin	1,664	2,012	1,898	1,500	900	Paddy.
Saurashtra Union	Not available.	Not available.	Not available	Not available.	715	Paddy.
Baroda	11,668	5,360	5,612	9,099	4,714	Wheat, Paddy, Jowar and also Commercial crops like Tobacco, Sugar-cane, mangoes and vegetable crops.
Hyderabad	16,524 17,500	27,679 8,800	35,231 11,300	12,920 16,400	12,787 Not available.	Paddy. Sugar-cane.

SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PROCESSING OF OIL CAKES

*1616. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil cake, like groundnut cake, is exported from India to some foreign countries and whether the same is processed into biscuits and other produets and imported into India; and

(b) if so, whether attempts are being made to process oil cake into such products in India to replace the imported products?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) No, Sir. The export of such oil cakes as can be processed into edible products is prohibited at present.

(b) Yes, Sir. The question of processing oil-cakes into edible products is receiving the attention of the Indian Oilseeds Committee and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

RICE IMPORTED FROM BURMA

*1617. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Burmese Government shipped any rice to India in the month of March, 1949 and if so, what was the quantity?

(b) What was the rate paid and was the quantity checked on arrival in India?

(c) Is any further shipment of rice expected from Burma?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes. Approx. 72,000 tons.

(b) A statement showing the rates paid for various qualities of Burma rice is laid on the table of the House. All consignments of foodgrains are checked for quality and weight at the port of unloading.

(c) Yes.

STATEMENT

Prices paid to Burma for rice imported from that country (per long ton of 2240 lbs. bagged f.o.b.).

(i) White rice	£38	= Rs. 507
(ii) Milchar Boiled	£39	= Rs. 520
(iii) Superior grades of sughandhi and vahir a ano glutinous.	£39/10/-	= Rs. 526
(iv) Long boiled	£40/10/-	= Rs. 540
(v) Brokens	£25/13/4-	= Rs. 343
(vi) Paddy	£25/13/4	= Rs. 343

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was the quantity that was expected to be shipped from Burma in the month of March against 72 thousand tons received?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: 72 thousand tons.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: No, Sir. What was the agreement reached for shipment in the month of March?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am afraid I have not got that information.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The quantity was two lakhs. May I know if it is likely to be received during the current month and whether the conditions in Burma are such as to allow shipments to reach India safely?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The total allocation from Burma up to June was 2,61,000 tons. We have received 1,84,000 tons and the balance up to June which is due is 77,000 tons. We hope to be able to receive this.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total six-monthly quota that was agreed to and what is the balance against it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It was 2,61,000. Out of that we have received, 1,84,000 and the balance of 77,000 is expected.

Rules for Recognition of Unions of Workers on Railways

*1618. **Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the table of the House the rules for the recognition of Unions of workers on State Railways and Company owned Railways?

(b) What is the minimum percentage of the total workers employed in a Railway who must enrol themselves as members of a Union before it can be recognised by that Railway Administration?

(c) What is the minimum number of recognised Unions on different State Railways and the minimum total overall membership of these Unions, which must be affiliated to a Railwaymen's Federation before it can be recognised by the Government of India?

(d) What is the minimum percentage of workers in a particular category of Railway staff on a particular Railway who must enrol themselves as members of a Union of that particular category of Railway workers on that Railway, and what must be its minimum overall total membership before it can be recognised by that Railway Administration?

(e) What additional conditions, if any, are required to be fulfilled by such a Union of a particular category of Railway servants if its membership includes Railway servants of that category on all the various State Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) The rules for recognition of Unions of workers on the Indian Government Railways are contained in parts B and C of Appendix XIII to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is kept in the Library of the House. Government have no information about the rules for the recognition of Unions functioning on Company-owned and Company-managed Railways as they exercise no control over such railways in this matter.

(b) No minimum percentage of the total number of employees on Railways, who must enrol themselves as members of a Union before it can be granted recognition, has been prescribed so far.

(c) No minimum number of recognised Unions of Indian Government Railways or minimum total overall membership of these Unions, which must be affiliated to a Railwaymen's Federation before it can be recognised by the Government, has been laid down. Till now, the Government have had dealings only with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

(d) As stated in answer to part (b) of this question, no minimum percentages have been laid down for membership of any Union before it could be recognised by the Railway Administration.

(e) Recognition to Unions is granted by the head of each Railway Administration, and it follows from this that the question of recognition of a Union operating on more than one railway does not arise.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have Government any proposal under consideration to revise these rules of recognition?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: We are considering the matter.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: By what time may we expect that they will finalise the rules?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: At an early date.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What is the Government's reason for singling out the All-India Railwaymen's Federation for sole recognition?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: From 1930 onwards it is the one all-India organisation with a recognisable following.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Is it not a fact that many of the Unions affiliated to the Federation are Communist-controlled or Communist-directed?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: Not many. There were some such unions which have recently been disaffiliated.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that recognition was accorded when the Railways were not Government Railways?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: I would require notice.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if it is the right of these unions to go on strike?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: At present, they are controlled by the Industrial Disputes Act, which entitles them to go on strike.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are the other employees of Government in other Departments given the same right?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: They are. Those who are not in the supervisory grade—officers, etc.—barring those people, even the other employees are at present entitled to go on strike.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are Government prepared to give the same facility to the officers of the Secretariat here?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It is a matter to be addressed to the Labour Minister.

UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS OF RAILWAY WORKERS

*1619. **Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of all the Unions on various Railways and of All India Railway Unions and Federations which are recognised by Government with their total membership and also what percentage that membership forms of the total number of workers for whom membership of that Union or Federation is open?

(b) Are Government aware that many of these Unions show inflated and bogus membership?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to find out their correct membership?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) A statement showing the names of the unions recognised by Indian Government Railways with their total membership and the percentage that the membership bears to the total number of the non-gazetted staff employed on the Railway concerned in 1947-48 is laid on the table of the House. Though Government have not yet formally recognised any all India Union or Federation the Railway Ministry have had contacts and consultations with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, which has been the most representative organisation of Railway labour, since 1930.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The matter is under consideration in connection with the revision of the Indian Trade Unions Act.

STATEMENT

List of unions recognised by Indian Government Railways showing the membership of each union and the percentage that the membership bears to the total number of non-gazetted staff employed on the railway concerned in 1947-48.

Railway	Serial No.	Name of Union	Membership claimed by the Union	Percentage of the total No. of non-gazetted staff employed on the Railway concerned.
1	2	3	4	5
Assam Railway	1	Assam Railway Labour Association, Pandu.	12,364	39·6%
B. N. Railway	2	B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union.	16,165	15·8%
	3	B. N. Railway Workers Welfare Association	513	·5%
	4	B. N. Railway Employees Union, Kharagpur.	7,186	·6%
	5	National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma	486	·5%
	6	B. N. Railway Employees Union of Vizag. Harbour and Port.	1,060	1·0%
	7	B. N. Railway Non-gazetted officers' Association, Vizagapatam	79	·1%
	8	B. N. Railway workers Association.	900	·8%
B.,B.& C.I. Railway	9	B., B. & C. I. Railway Employees Union, Bombay	10,307	12·0%
	10	B., B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay	21,705	25·0%
	11	National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay.	100	·1%
	12	B.,B.&C.I. Railway Employees Association.	7,040	8·2%
E. I. Railway	13	E. I. Railway Employees Union* (Recognition will be granted after its registration).	1,36,399	61·7%*
	14	The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay	360	·2%
	15	Railway Press worker's Union E. I. Railway, Calcutta.	1,029	..†
	16	Association of Accountants. E. I. Railway.	49	..†
E.P. Railway	17	E. P. Railwaymen's Union, Delhi	5,861	13%
	18	E. P. Railway Staff Union, Delhi	1,291	3%
	19	E. P. Railway Union, Delhi	3,922	8%
G.I.P. Railway	20	G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union	31,239	20%
	21	National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma	884	·6%
	22	G.I.P. Railway Accounts Staff Union	424	·3%
	23	National Railway Workers Union	15,000	10·0%
M.& S.M.Railway	24	M.&S.M. Railway Employees Union.	22,534	29%
	25	M.&S.M. Railway Running Staff Association (Partially recognised).	1,380	..‡
O.T. Railway	26	O. T. Railway Employees Association, Gorakhpur.	3,566	7%

* Formed recently after the amalgamation of—
1. E. I. Rly. Employees Association,
2. E. I. Railwaymen's Union, and
3. E. A. Rly. Employees Association (E.I. Rly. Zone), which were recognised by the E.I.Rly. Administration.

†Information regarding the total No. of staff of these two categories is not available.

‡Information regarding the total No. of running staff on the M. & S. M. Rly. is not available.

1	2	3	4	5
O.T. Railway —*Contd.*	27	O. T. Railwaymen's Union, Gorakhpur.	8,617	17%
	28	B.A. Railway Employees Association (O. T. Railway Zone) (Recognised upto 31/3/1949).	6,000	12%
S.I.Railway	29	S.I. Railway Employees Association, Tambaram.	15,030	28%
	30	S.I. Railway Loco Transportation Association, Erode	1,700	..*
	31	S. I. Railway Workers Union, Golden Rock . . .	6,636	12·2%
D.R.C.A.O.	32	Staff Association Railway clearing Accounts Office, Delhi.	795	41·1%
	33	Accountants Association, D.R.C. A.O., Delhi.	25	43·8%

*Information regarding the total No. of Loco Transportation staff on the S.I.Rly. is not available.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: How long do Government propose to take to arrive at a decision on this matter?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: The revision of the Indian Trade Unions Act was considered at the recent Conference of Labour Ministers and I understand it is under active consideration by the Labour Ministry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of Government to restrict recognition only to this All-India Railwaymen's Federation?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: It has been a matter of fact, not policy. If another organisation of importance arises, the matter will be considered at that stage.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF FOREIGN TRAINED SCHOLARS IN INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*1620. **Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Central Government scholars trained in the various branches of Agricultural Science in the United Kingdom and the United States of America have been selected by the Federal Public Service Commission for appointment in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute; and

(b) whether during the last few years the research activities of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have increased and whether new lines of research have been formulated?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A note showing the development and the new lines of research undertaken at the Institute during the last few years is placed on the table.

STATEMENT

Note on researches which have been developed or undertaken at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

I. *Agronomy*—The Research work of the Division has been augmented in the following directions:

(1) *Phosphate series.*—Experiments have been started to test the value of placement of phosphate compared to broadcast, as to its economic utilisation by the crops. It is observed that fertilizer placed at 3" depth in rows 6" apart, by augmenting

the crop yield, results in economy of fertilizer. Different forms of phosphate, indigenous and exotic, are being tried to test the availability of phosphorus to the crops so that indigenous sources may be tapped for use as phosphatic manure in the country.

(2) *Fertility Building Experiment.*—Two more series of experiments with organic and inorganic manures have been started to work out methods of raising the fertility levels of fields which basically are poor in their crop production capacity. Indications are that green manures supplemented with phosphate at sowing time raise up the fertility index of the soil.

(3) *Sugarcane Agronomy.*—Regular varietal and manurial experiments have been begun on sugarcane crop.

New Lines of investigations developed in the Division are as under :

(i) *6-Acre Cultivator Holdings.*—These holdings were laid out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Agricultural Sub-station, Karnal, with the object of comparing the economic returns from improved practices of manuring, cultivation, rotation, etc., as evolved at the Institute as against the common system of cropping by the cultivator. The cereal crops in the rotations are, wheat and maize at Delhi, and rice and maize at Karnal.

(ii) *Cultural Experiments.*—Trials on cultural practices have been begun with the object of reducing wilt incidence in gram, better development of tubers in potatoes, early maturity of sugarcane, better utilization of manures by berseem, sugarcane and wheat crops and effect of shallow and deep cultivation on soil structure and plant development.

(iii) *Vegetable crops.*—Trials of new hybrids having larger potato size to *phulwa* have been begun. Other crops under observation are new varieties of brinjals, peas and tomatoes.

(iv) *Grasses and legumes.*—A new agrostological section has been started in the Division to study the economic value of the indigenous grasses and legumes for fodder, soil improvement and soil conservation purposes. Along with indigenous material grasses received from foreign countries are also under observation. Some selections have been made from these materials for trial in the Provinces and States.

II. *Botany Division.*—The activities in Botanical Research have increased and new lines of research on the following aspects are in progress :—

(1) Cytogenetical research in Plant Breeding.

(2) Physiological research for crop improvement.

(3) Collection and introduction of new plants for direct trials or for use in plant breeding.

III. *Chemistry Division.*—The new lines of work and development and increasing the scope of work in the Chemistry Division undertaken by the Institute are as follows :—

The following new sections have been established and the investigation on new lines is being carried :—

(a) *Soil Survey.*—To study the importance of soil classification in relation to crop production, irrigation, and land utilization.

(b) *Micronutrient studies.*—To ascertain the causes of diseases in plants due to deficiency of minor elements.

(c) *Physical Chemistry.*—To study the properties of clays and fundamental research on soil colloids.

(d) *Physics.*—Spectroscopic analysis to determine the minute traces of micro-element.

(e) *Biochemistry.*—To study nutrition value of fodder and feeds.

(2) The lines of work in the following fields have been strengthened :

(a) Investigations on soil fertility.

(b) Survey of root nodule organisms and preparation of cultures.

(c) Increasing the phosphate availability of indigenous phosphates.

(d) Preparation of synthetic insecticides.

(e) Survey of plants for their insecticidal value.

(3) Development :

(a) Increasing the post-graduate facilities.

(b) Utilisation palm juice for the preparation of gur.

IV. *Mycology Division.*—The activities of the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology have greatly increased during the past few years both as regards training, research and 'advisory'. A short account of the activities is listed below :—

(a) *Research.*—In addition to the previous lines of research, new lines of research have been initiated during the last two years and include—

(1) Study of loose smut of wheat and its physiologic races;

(2) Determination of losses caused by diseases of wheat, sugarcane and potato;

(3) Rusts of linseed, gram, bajra, lentil, sannhemb, etc. etc;

(4) Studies on fungicides;

(5) Diseases of gram, wilt of linseed, lentil, pea, pigeon-pea, etc.;

(6) Late blight of potato and study of airborne fungal spores;

(7) Intensive work on virus diseases of potato, tomato, sannhemp and vegetable crops.

Improved varieties of crops evolved at this Institute are being tested for disease resistance on a much larger scale. A scheme on the production of partially disease-free seed potato has been successfully completed and it has been shown that the potato yields can be considerably increased by the distribution of even partially disease-free seed material to the cultivators. A record yield of 427 maunds per acre has been obtained in this connection.

Large number of cultures have been added to the culture collection and a very large number supplied to different research Institutes and Universities in India and abroad. There has been an addition in the number of specimens to the Herbarium; also a number of *Exsiccati* sets have been added to it.

V. *Entomology Division.*—During the last three years the research activities of the Entomology Division has increased in several directions so much so that the Section of Entomology has been raised to the status of Division of Entomology consisting of the sections of Insect Parasitology, Insect Taxonomy, Insect Ecology, and Insect Toxicology. In each of these sections entirely new lines of research have been taken up.

Insect Parasitology :—

The biological control of the potato tuber moth by an exotic larval parasite, Bracon gelechiae.—The larval parasite, Bracon gelechiae, which has been recently imported from Canada, is being successfully mass produced on the larvae of the rice moth, Corcyra cephalonica, in the Parasite Laboratory of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Preliminary experiments are very encouraging and this parasite can be quite useful to keep the potato tuber moth, that causes colossal losses wherever potato is grown and stored, under check under Indian conditions. Arrangements are being made to release the parasites in potato storage godowns in Bihar, where this pest is causing serious losses to potato tubers stored in godowns.

The biological control of the sugarcane and jowar stem borers.—Experiments have been in progress in the Parasite Laboratory for the last two years, to find out suitable Laboratory hosts for the mass breeding of some of the promising parasites of sugarcane borers. Recently a good alternate host has been discovered for the first time, to mass breed Stenobracon deesai, a larval parasite of the top, stem and root borers of sugarcane and also the stem borer of *Jowar*. The success of the mass multiplication of Stenobracon has potentialities for controlling not only the Sugarcane borers, but also the maize stem borer, Chilo Zonellus, which is a very serious pest of maize and *jowar* which are the poor man's food in our country. Field experiments with this parasite will be carried out during the coming season.

Insect Taxonomy.—In the realm of insect taxonomy, new lines of work have already been started in identifying members of the important family of pulse beetles by their genetallic structure and promising results are in the offing. Larval and pupal identification of various pests by the external morphology (including Chetotaxy) are in progress.

Insect Ecology.—The rise and fall of animal population has been studied under controlled conditions with such organisms as protozoa. We in this Institute have been studying, for the past few years the rise and fall in insect population under natural conditions. Now we are starting an entirely new line of study on the population fluctuation of an insect pest under several controlled conditions of temperature and humidity. We have studied the ecology of grain storage and showed the comparative utility of ventilated stores versus air-tight stores.

The behaviour of flies towards light, an important ecological factor, has been taken up. The effect of light, both quantity and quality, on adults and all the developmental stages of flies are being studied in detail. The influence of light and darkness of the

activities of flies, *viz.*, flight feeding, pairing and egg laying are being observed. The results show that development of larvæ and growth of larvæ and pupæ were themselves influenced by light and ultimate emergence from pupæ required light. The preference of various coloured lights of equalized physical intensities by flies showed that blue light was liked most while yellow repelled them to a great extent. This may be of great importance in applied Entomology, especially for fly control in their favourite breeding places like dairies, staples and poultry yards.

Insect Toxicology.—Research on insect toxicology was practically non-existent in the Institute but now a number of problems are being tackled and a number of results have been obtained. The effect of temperature on the effectiveness of fumigants has been studied and it has been found that fumigation of stored grain should be carried out at higher temperature whereas the pre-fumigation temperature should be kept as low as possible. It has been proved that specific susceptibility of insects to HCN is correlated with the amount of HCN absorbed. As regards the work in progress we are tackling the problems of (a) the effect of temperature on the toxicity of DDT dusts and (b) the effect of formulation on the toxicity of insecticidal sprays. None of these lines have ever been tackled in India.

VI. *Agricultural Engineering Division.*—New research as applied to mechanization of agriculture and the design of improved implements and methods so far as they apply to the ordinary cultivator in the main has been started with the formation of the Division of Agriculture Engineering.

Progress in Research on Maize Crop

*1621. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what progress has so far been achieved in research on Maize crop by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute?

(b) Is it a fact that one of its varieties is a forty day crop?

(c) If so, why is it not extensively grown where the is availability of water in view of the grain scarcity in the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement is laid on the table showing the progress achieved so far in respect of research work on Maize carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

(b) No. The earliest variety is a 65 days crop.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Note on Research on Maize carried out at Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Research on maize crop was taken up at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in April, 1946. Nearly 250 collections of varieties of Maize from all over India and also from countries such as U.S.A. and Australia, where great progress in maize research has been made, are under study.

In breeding work in desirable varieties has been under way for the last two years and this work has to be continued for another two or three years for the planning of single and double crosses for trials on a large scale in different Provinces.

For immediate results certain reputed commercial hybrids from U.S.A. and Australia were tried at Delhi and, on the basis of results obtained, steps have now been taken to import seed in sufficient quantity of four double crosses from Australia for trials in different maize growing tracts of India. Fundamental research on hybrid vigour is under progress.

Investigations of Indian Central Coconut Committee

*1622. **Shreematty Annie Mascarene:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the result of the investigation of the Indian Central Coconut Committee during the last ten years;

(b) whether the root and leaf diseases of the coconut tree are brought under control; and

(c) the extent of the areas affected by the disease?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Committee was set up on only in February, 1945. The results of the investigations of the Committee are given in its reports for the period 1945-46 and 1946-47, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. A copy of the report for the period 1947-48 is not yet available, but will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as it is ready. A copy of a broebure recently prepared by the Committee is also available in the Library.

(b) Not yet. It has not yet been possible to apply the control measures on a wider scale as the work was at an experimental stage. It is now proposed to apply the measures on a 10 acre plot in Travancore and Cochin for purpose of demonstration.

(c) The area affected by the disease is approximately two lakh acres.

TRANSPORT OF WHEAT FROM EAST PUNJAB AND U. P. TO DELHI FOR PERSONAL USE

*1623. **Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether transport of wheat from Eastern Punjab and the United Provinces to Delhi for purely personal use is prohibited either by the Government of India or by the respective provincial Governments: and

(b) whether Delhi Province is a deficit area so far as its own requirement of wheat is concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes, by both East Punjab and U.P. except that U.P. Government have been permitting upto ten seers in the case of railway passengers for *bona fide* consumption: this limit is being reduced to two seers.

(b) Yes.

OVERCHARGING BY RAILWAY COOLIES ON E. P. RAILWAY

*1624. **Dr. Raghu Vira:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railway be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway coolies detected in each of the last three months by Social Guides on the East Punjab Railway while over-charging passengers beyond the rates fixed; and

(b) the number of cases in which action was taken by the authorities?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Four cases of railway coolies overcharging passengers were detected by social guides on the E.P. Railwny during the last three months, two of these being in December, 1948 and two in January, 1949. There was no such case during February, 1949.

(b) Suitable action was taken in all these cases by the railway administration.

INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF CHANGE AT RAILWAY BOOKING OFFICES

*1625. **Dr. Raghu Vira:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that railway passengers are put to considerable inconvenience for lack of sufficient change at Booking Offices and are sometimes refused tickets on that ground; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Government have information readily available in respect of only E.P. Railway who report that only one incident of lack of sufficient change at the booking office at Delhi Main station

came to light recently. In respect of other railways information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the house when received.

(b) So far as Delhi Main station is concerned, instructions have been issued to increase the imprest cash allowed to the booking office. In regard to other railways action will be taken if found necessary.

CRIME ON B. N. RAILWAY

*1626. **Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of thefts, burglaries and dacoities which took place during the year 1947-48 on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) How many such cases have been detected by the Railway Police and what preventive measures have been taken in this regard?

(c) How many cases could not be detected and for what reasons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) Information available indicates that there were 939 cases of thefts, two dacoities and three burglaries in the calendar year 1947 and that in the calendar year 1948 there were 1,537 cases of thefts, two dacoities and one burglary.

(b) 736 cases in 1947 and 927 cases in 1948 were detected by the railway police. Armed railway protection police now escort all important mail and passenger trains.

(c) 208 cases in 1947 and 613 cases in 1948 could not be detected. This is due mainly to the miscreants decamping from running trains or making good their escape before the arrival of the railway police.

REMOVAL OF FIRST AND SECOND CLASS COACHES FROM TRAINS ON B. N. RAILWAY

*1627. **Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Bengal Nagpur Railway have removed the first and second class coaches from trains?

(b) If so, when did they give effect to this change?

(c) Which are the trains on B.N. Railway running without first and second class coaches?

(d) Is any sleeping accommodation provided for long journey passengers in these trains?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) and (b). First and Second Class accommodation was removed from trains on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, as also other Indian Railways, from 1st January, 1949. If the reference is to the removal of Class I and Class II coaches, the reply is in the negative except that Class I accommodation has been withdrawn from the Howrah-Puri passenger trains with effect from 15th October, 1948, as the Class I accommodation was very meagrely utilised and there was a very strong need to augment Class III accommodation to reduce overcrowding.

(c) If the reference is to Class I and II coaches, 5-Down—6 Up Howrah-Puri passenger trains do not have Class I accommodation, as already stated in reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

(d) Not yet.

NEW VILLAGE POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

*1628. **Shri Santanu Kumar Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government intend to open new Post Offices in the villages of Orissa?

(b) Is it a fact that there is want of accommodation for Post Offices and for the lower grade staff?

(c) What is the number of Post Offices functioning in private houses?

(d) What is the amount being spent every year towards rent of such Post Offices?

Shri Khurshed Lal (Deputy Minister of Communications): (a) Yes.

(b) In the opening of Departmental Post Offices, difficulty is generally experienced in securing office and residential accommodation. In the case of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, the office accommodation is provided by the Extra Departmental Agent and the lower grade staff attached to them make their own arrangements for stay.

(c) and (d). It is presumed that the honourable member desires to know the number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices which are situated in the houses of the Extra Departmental Agents. The number of such offices in Orissa is 478. No rent is paid since the allowance paid is inclusive of rent for the post office.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS

*1629. **Mr. Tajamul Husain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what amount of consolidated travelling allowance is paid per month to Travelling Ticket Examiners in the East Indian Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway and East Bengal Railway?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: On the Bengal Nagpur Railway, Travelling Ticket Examiners are paid Daily Allowance and not Consolidated Travelling Allowance.

By the East Bengal Railway the honourable member is presumably referring to that portion of the ex-Bengal Assam Railway which is now in the Indian Dominion.

A statement showing the Consolidated Travelling Allowance paid to Travelling Ticket Examiners of the East Indian Railway and the Indian Dominion portion of the ex-B.A. Railway is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

East Indian Railway

Category	*Rate of consolidated travelling allowance.*
	Rs. A. P.
Travelling Ticket Examiners (Special Grade)	31 4 0 p.m.
Travelling Ticket Examiners, Grade I	25 0 0 p.m.
Travelling Ticket Examiners, Grade II ...	18 12 0 p.m.

Those Travelling Ticket Examiners who prior to the introduction of the Crew system were substantive holders of permanent posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors are paid consolidated travelling allowance at the rates shown below :—

Category	*Rate of consolidated travelling allowance.*
	Rs. A. P.
Staff drawing less than Rs 100	43 12 0 p.m
Staff drawing Rs 100 and over but less than Rs. 200	62 8 0 p.m.
Staff drawing Rs 200 and over	85 12 0 p.m.

Sealdah Division of the E. I. Railway which was formerly a part of the Bengal Assam Railway

Here the duties of Travelling Ticket Examiners are performed by employees designated as Crew men and Crew in-charges. The rates of consolidated travelling allowance paid to them are as follows :—

Category	*Rate of consolidated travelling allowance*
	Rs. A. P.
Crew-in-charge (old scale)	10 per cent. of pay.
Crew-in-charge (revised scale)	25 0 0 p.m.
Crew men (old scale) ...	10 per cent. of pay.
Crew men (revised scale) ...	18 12 0 p.m.

Assam Railway (formerly part of the E. A. Railway)

On this Railway Travelling Ticket Examiners on the old scale of pay Rs. 75—6—90—10—200 are granted consolidated travelling allowance as below :—

Category	*Rate of consolidated travelling allowance.*
	Rs. A. P.
Staff drawing less than Rs. 100	43 12 0 p.m.
Staff drawing Rs. 100 and over but less than Rs. 200	62 8 0 p.m.
Staff drawing Rs. 200	83 12 0 p.m.

Crewin-charge and Crew men on the revised scales of pay are granted consolidated travelling allowance of Rs. 25 and Rs 1812 p.m. respectively.

CLAIMS re GOODS BOOKED FROM PAKISTAN TO INDIA DURING DISTURBANCES

***1630. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have honoured the claims of displaced persons who booked their goods from Pakistan to India during the disturbances?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much amount has so far been paid to these persons in respect of such claims, and how many claims are still pending?

(c) What are the reasons for such claims remaining pending?

(d) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps do Government propose to take to compensate the loss of these displaced persons?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (a) All claims cases are considered and decided on merits and no distinction is made between claims preferred by displaced persons and other claimants.

(b) Separate statistics to show the number of claims or the amounts involved paid to displaced persons are not maintained by railways.

(c) The claims the honourable member has in mind presumably refer to consignments booked from one Dominion to the other. The reason for a number of these claims remaining pending is to be found in the refusal of the Pakistan Railways to deal with them on the basis of agreed directives reached prior to partition. Consequently a revised method for dealing with such claims has been formulated and the Indian Government Railways are awaiting the making over of all relevant files by the Pakistan Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

FIXATION OF SUGAR CANE PRICES IN PROVINCES

***1631. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of agriculture be pleased to state what is the rate fixed by Government for the purchase of sugarcane in each of the Provinces of United Provinces and Bihar?

(b) Is there any rate fixed by the Government for the Provinces of Madras and Bombay and if not, why not?

(c) What is the actual rate at which sugar-cane has been purchased by factories in Madras and in Bombay?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to remove the disparity between Bombay and United Provinces and Bihar?

(e) What redress have Government been able to give to the complaints made by the sugarcane growers in the Nasik district and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Rs. 1-10-0 and Rs. 1-13-0 per maund in United Provinces and Bihar respectively.

(b) In Madras cane prices have been fixed at Rs. 1-11-9 per maund for factories having over 1,200 tons crushing capacity, Rs. 1-11-0 per maund for factories having between 300 and 1,200 tons crushing capacity and Rs. 1-8-8 per maund for factories having less than 300 tons crushing capacity. The Bombay Government have not fixed any price of cane either in factory areas or outside, as the factories have their own cane plantations.

(c) In the case of Madras, at the same rate as is fixed by the Madras Government. As regards Bombay the question does not arise as the quantities of cane purchased by factories outside their own plantations are insignificant.

(d) Unlike the United Provinces and Bihar factories, Deccan factories have their own plantations. The prices of sugarcane therefore cannot be the same.

(e) Fixation of cane price is mainly the concern of the Provincial Government. The Government of Bombay was asked to inquire into and deal with the complaint received from Nasik District.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NUMBER OF SPINDLES AND LOOMS IN RAJASTHAN UNION

128. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of spindles and looms working in the Rajasthan Union?

(b) Did the Government of Rajasthan make any request for allocation of additional spindles and looms and was the request met with?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Spindles—47,560, Looms—804.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan did make a request for additional spindles and they were informed that an additional allotment outside the Expansion Plan settled in 1946 could only be permitted, if they furnished definite proof of availability of machinery in reasonable time. So far, the Government of Rajasthan have failed to furnish any such evidence.

ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS BETWEEN B.B. AND C.I. AND MEWAR STATE RAILWAYS

129. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how much money has so far been realised by the B. B. and C. I. Railway from Mewar State Railway for transit of M. S. Railway wagons over the Bersach Junction Railway Bridge near Chittorgarh?

(b) What is the actual cost of the bridge?

(c) Is there any contract between the B. B. and C. I. Railway and the M. S. Railway and if so, when is it coming to an end?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The information readily available relate to the three years from 1945-46 to 1947-48 and are as given below:

Year	Rs.	A.	P.
1945-46 ...	4,408	9	0
1946-47 ...	5,258	2	0
1947-48 ...	5,354	8	0

(b) The bridge having been constructed more than fifty years ago, the actual cost incurred is not readily available. The approximate cost, it is estimated, was Rs. 2,00,000.

(c) Yes, there is an agreement between the B.B. and C.I. Railway and the Mewar State Railway (now Rajasthan Railway), which is terminable on 6 months notice.

Production, Consumption, Import and Export of Oilseeds

130. Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of various oil-seeds (i) produced in, (ii) imported into (iii) consumed in and (iv) exported from, India during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of oil and oil-cake consumed in, and exported from, India during the same time;

(c) the quantity of oil and oil-cake consumed in India by (i) human beings, (ii) cattle and (iii) industries, during the same period;

(d) the various industries, which used oils and oil-cakes and the quantities thereof during the same period; and

(e) whether attempts have been made to conserve oil and oil cakes for human and cattle consumption in India and for export abroad and find substitutes for local industrial uses?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (d). Four statements giving the information available are placed on the table of the House.

(e) Having regard to the over all world shortage of oils and fats, exports of oils outside India are restricted and the quantity to be exported is decided only after taking into account the various factors, such as the internal supply position, indigenous demand both for edible and industrial purposes and the demand from various foreign countries. It is also the policy of the Government to allow export more in the form of oil than of seed with a view to augment the production of oil and cake in the country. The Government have already taken steps to obtain information regarding the availability of Mohwa, Nahore and Karanjia seeds so that the non-edible oils derived from these sources could partly replace the edible oils for soap-making.

As regards oil-cakes India exported on an average about four lakh tons of oil-cakes during pre-war years. Since then there has been a considerable increase in the consumption in India of oilcake both as cattle feed and as manure. With a view therefore to conserving the available supplies exports of oil-cakes from India with the exception of Mohwa-cakes are completely prohibited.

STATEMENT I

Quantity of principal oilseeds produced, consumed in, imported into and exported from India during the last three years.

(In '000 tons)

Oil-seeds	Production			Consumption*			Imports			Exports.		
	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
Sesamum .	354	323	323	351	301	312				3·0	2·4	0·9
Groundnut (In shell) .	3,464	3,588	3,454	2,974	3,588	3,316				196·7	..	55·4
Rape and Mustard	719	792	782	713	792	782				22·3	Neg.	..
Linseed	351	328	364	183	276	297				169·4	51·9	66·9
Castorseed .	123	117	128	117	111	123	..	..	..	5·8	5·8	5·0

* Consumption is calculated on the basis of Production *minus* net exports.

STATEMENT II

Quantity of oil and oilcakes consumed and exported from India.

(In '000 tons)

Commodity	Consumption during 1947-48	
	Oil	Oilcake
Sesamum	101	152
Groundnut	857	1,045
Rape and Mustard	223	447
Linseed	71	156
Castor	56	144
Total	1,118	1,944

Exports during 1945-46 to 1947-48 (In tons)

Commodity	Oil			Oilcake		
	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
Sesamum	207	211	4	..	..	..
Groundnut	522	17,756	29,846	..	..	..
Rape and Mustard	73	7	109	115	47	..
Linseed	4,389	1,253	13,709	..	..	..
Castor	676	1,146	24,199	..	..	..
Other sorts	468	1,479	1,987	..	..	2,196
Total	6,434	21,852	69,853	115	47	2,196

STATEMENT III

Estimated consumption of oils and oilcakes in India (In '000 tons)

Particulars of consumption	Oil	Oilcake
(i) For human consumption	869	*Nil*
(ii) For cattle	..	1,035
(iii) By industries	249	..
(iv) As manure	..	909

STATEMENT IV

(In '000 tons)

Industry	Groundnut	Linseed	Castor	Coconut	Others
1. Soap	150	..	..	75	25(a)
2. Paint	..	30	..	..	..
3. Textile and Leather	..	..	10(b)	..	..
Total	150	30	10(b)	75	25(a)

(a) Mohwa, neem etc.

(b) Includes quantities for the manufacture of brake fluid, hair-oils and other miscellaneous uses.

IMPROVEMENT IN YIELD OF PADDY AND WHEAT

131. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the expected increase in yield of paddy and wheat per acre by (i) the use of manures and fertilisers; (ii) improved seeds; and (iii) major and minor schemes of irrigation—province by province?

(b) What are the quantities of fertilisers to be put per acre and the corresponding increase in yield per acre?

(c) What are the plans of Government to procure and distribute these fertilisers?

(d) What doses of Nitrogenous, Phosphatic, and Potassic fertilisers have been found to give best yields of paddy and wheat in different provinces and what is the corresponding increase in yield thereby?

(e) What are the places where such experiments have been made?

(f) Is there any publication in which the results of such experiments have been recorded?

(g) If so, do Government propose to place a copy of the publication on the table of the House and if there is none, do Government propose to give references?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) (i) The increase from the use of improved seeds varies between 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. in case of different cereal crops in different regions.

(ii) The increase in yield due to irrigation, whether from major or minor irrigated projects is between 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. in case of rice and wheat depending on the regional rainfall. It is regretted that information province-wise is not available.

(iii) With regard to manures and fertilisers information will be given in answer to part (h) of this question.

(b) The quantity of fertilizers to be applied per acre and the corresponding increase in yield per acre vary with the soil type, climatic condition and nature of crops grown and also whether the crops are irrigated or unirrigated. A detailed statement giving the results of manurial experiments conducted in the various provinces is placed on the table of the House.

(c) All the quantities of nitrogenous fertilisers allocated to India by the International Emergency Food Council are imported on State account and are pooled with the indigenous supplies and supplied to Provincial Governments. The scheme has been in operation since 1943-44; is run on 'No profit no loss' basis, and will continue so long as imports are considered necessary. As regards phosphatic fertilisers, the Government of India have recently started a scheme under which superphosphate and horsemeal are also distributed by the Government of India to the Provinces and States at prices fixed.

(d) and (e). Information has already been given in reply to (b) above.

(f) and (g). Copies† of three publications containing information referred to are placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Showing the increase in yield of paddy with the application of manures in different parts of India.

(Increase percentage in yield per acre)

Province	Application of inorganic fertilizers.	Application of cakes	Application of green manure etc.
1	2	3	4
Bengal	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 20—40 lbs. N per acre, increases yield from 12·0 to 44·0%	Groundnut and mustard cake at 20—40 lbs. N per acre increases yield from 24·0 to 41·0%	Green Manuring increases yield by 23 % and F.Y.M. by 10·0%
Madras	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 30—45 lbs. N. per acre increases yield from 15—35%	Cakes supplying Nitrogen 20 to 60 lbs. per acre, increases yield from 15—45%	Green manuring with 60—90 lbs. N increases yield by 100%

† Not printed in the day's Debate. Copies placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

1	2	3	4
Bihar	Ammonium sulphate 20-40 lbs. Nitrogen per acre increases yield from 13 60%		(a) Green manuring sann or Dhaincha supplying 40 lbs. N increases yield by 20% (b) Combination of superphosphate and green manuring supplying 40 lbs. P_2O_5 and 40 lbs. N increases yield from 35—50%
Assam	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 60 lbs. N. per acre increases yield by 32·0%		
Orissa	(a) Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 30-45 lbs N per acre gives an increase of 20—29% (b) Superphosphate at the rate of 30 lbs. P_2O_5 increases yield from nil to 29·0%	Cakes at the rate of 15—45 lbs. N per acre, increase yield of paddy.	Green manuring with Dhaincha at 30-45 lbs. N per acre, increase yield from 12—33%
Bombay	Profitable responses have been obtained with sulphate of ammonia at the rate of 30—40 lbs. N	Groundnut cake at the rate of 48 lbs N per acre gives an increase of 47—80%	..
United Provinces	(1) Ammonium sulphate at 60 lbs. N per acre increases yield by 32·0% (2) Superphosphate or Bone-meal do not give any appreciable increase in yield. The max. increase is only 8·0% (3) Nicipbos at the rate of 25—50 lbs. N increases yield from 20—30% (4) At Gorakhpur in U. P. Nicipbos at the rate of 50 lbs: N & P_2O_5 gave an increase of 80%	Cakes at the rate of 20—60 lbs. N., increase yield from 7—48%	(1) Compost at the rate of 25—50 lbs. N per acre increases yield of 9—18% (2) Green manuring like sannhemp and Dhaincha gave an increased yield of 57—90%
Karnal (East Punjab)	(1) Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 40 lbs. N per acre increases yield by 24—28% (2) Superphosphate at the rate of 40 lbs. P_2O_5 per acre increases yield from nil to 15·0% (3) Combination of N.P. at 40 lbs. N & 40 lbs. P_2O_5 increases yield from 12 to 24% (4) Combination of N. K. at the rate of 40 lbs. N and 60 lbs. K_2O increases yield from 20—30% (5) Complete fertilizers at the rate of 40 : 40 : 60 increase yield from 12—30%		
Central Provinces	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 10—30 lbs. N gives an increase of 20—70%	Cakes at the rate of 20—60% N per acre increase yield from 26—191·0%	

1	2	3	4
Mysore	(1) Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 12½ to 30 lbs. N increase yield from 13 to 20%. (2) Superphosphate gives an increase from 4—8%	Cakes give an increase of 15%	(1) Green manuring gives an increase of 10—50% (2) Compost at the rate of 5 tons per acre gives an increase from nil to 5.0%

STATEMENT II

Showing the increase in yield of Wheat per acre due to manuring.

Provinces of Tract	Application of inorganics	Application of cakes	Application of green manures etc.
1	2	3	4
	Irrigation conditions.		
Black Soil tract (Bombay, C.P. Hyderabad and Central India)	(1) Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 5 to 54 lbs. N per acre gives a response from 5·7 to 11·8 lbs. of wheat per lb. of N. (2) Ammonium sulphate at the rate from 37 to 110 lbs. N per acre gave a yield of wheat from 1086 to 1244 lbs. per acre. (3) Niciphos II gave response from 7·1 to 8·5 per lb. of N and 7·5—20·4 per lb. of N and P and 14·7 lb. per 1 lb. of N and 3·3 lbs. P 2O5 as Nicephos I.	Oil cakes gave a response from 6·9 to 11·8 lbs. of wheat grain per lb. of N	(1) F.Y.M. gave a response from 4·9 to 6.2 lbs. of wheat grain per lb of N. (2) Poudrettee and Night soil at 30 lbs. N per acre gave a response of 11·3 and 16·0 lbs. of grain per lb. of N. (3) Compost at the rate from 37—110 lbs. N per acre gave a yield from 1363 to 1851 lbs. per acre. (4) F.Y.M. at above rate gave a yield from 1422-1532 (5) Night soil at above rate gave a yield from 1348 to 1837 (6) An average increase of 90 lbs. per acre in yield due to green manuring was calculated from 65 trials.
Gangetic Alluvium (U.P.)	(1) Ammonium sulphate at the rate from 10—50 lbs. N per acre gave a response from 3·8 to 43·0 lbs. per lb. of N. (2) Nitrate of soda at the rate from 12—18 lbs. N per acre gave response of 13·2 lbs. per lb. of N (3) Nitrochalk at 16 lbs. N gave a response of 15·9 lbs per lb. N. (4) Calcium cynamide at the rate of 25 lbs. N per acre gave a response of 8·5 lbs. per lb. of N.	Cakes at the rate from 50—100 lbs. N per acre gave response from 4·0 to 5·8 lbs. per lb of Nitrogen.	(1) F.Y.M. at 60 lbs. N gave response of 3.6 lbs. per lb of N (2) Compost at 80 lbs. N gave response of 2·7 lbs. per lbs. N (3) Green manuring gave an increase, yield from 123 to 333 lbs. per acre over control.

1	2	3	4
Bihar	(1) Am. Sulphate at the rate of 16 lbs. N gave a response of 13·4 lbs. per lb. N. (2) For similar dose in form of sodium nitrate response was 4·1 lbs. per lb. N. (3) Am. Sulphate at the rate from 10·64 lbs. in presence of P&K at the 20 lbs. P205. & K20 gave a response from 10·4 to 15·1 lbs. per lb N.	..	F.Y.M. at the rate of 20 lbs. N. per acre gave a respons. of 1·4 lb. per lb. of N
Delhi	(1) Sulphate of Ammonia at the rate of 40—80 lbs. N increases yield from 30—90%	Cakes increase yield by 27—30%	(1) Green manuring increases yield from 24—32%
	(2) P205 at 65 lbs. per acre increases yield by 16·0%		(2) F.Y.M. increases yield by 43%
			(3) Leaf compost increases yield by 33%
Indus Alluvium (Karnal)	(1) Ammonium sulphate at 40 lbs. N increases yield by 34%		Green manuring increases yield by 30—46%
	(2) P205 at 80 lbs. increases yield by 22%		
	(3) N.K. at the rate of 40 : 80 increases yield by 26%		
	(4) N,P. at the rate of 40 : 80 increases yield by 30%		
	(5) N,P,K increase yield by 15%		

Response lb. per lb. N P205 or N-P205.

	Quantity per acre	Ammonium sulphate	Sodium Nitrate	Cal. Cynamide	Super	Nicephos.
Lyallpur	11—10	9·4	17·0	13·4	..	19·4
	11—20	12·2	13·0	14·8	16·1	18·8
	21—30	14·0	19·6	18·8	2·1	18·0
	31—40	11·6	4·3	..	..	11·4
	41—50	7·2	..	6·3	..	..
	51—60	6·5	..	..	..	11·3
Hansi Sirsa	11—20	5·7	6·4	1·0	20·6	..
	21—30	8·1	4·8	1·9	13·2	..
	31—40	5·6	7·3	5·8	7·0	..
	41—50	..	..	8·6	..	..

Response lb. per lb N. P205 or Combination.

Fertilizer	Lyallpur	Montgomery.	Okara & Colyana		Hansi	Sirsa
Ammonium sulphate	9·6	12·5	14·6	15·1	7·1	3·8
Sodium Nirate	8·6	5·2	..	..	8·6	3·8
Calcium Cynamide	..	..	..	..	2·9	..
Nicephos (N: P205 : : 1 :3·2)	..	..	..	25·9	..	..
Nicephos 11 (N:P205::1:2).		..	..	..	..	..
Super		..	..	..	..	..
P205 over N			3·1	..	..	..

Response lb. per lb. N of Various organics.

Manure	Lyallpur	Hansi
Castor cake 75 N per acre.	..	4·8
Toria cake	5·2	..
Mohwa cake	Depressing effect	..
F.Y.M. 60—160 lb. N per acre	2·½	..
Green manuring	161 lbs. per acre increase in yield.	459 lbs. per acre increase in yield lbs. per acre.
Molasses at 75 & 80 mds. per acre	Depressed yield by 376	

(b) What are the quantities of fertilisers to be put per acre and the corresponding increase in yield per acre?

(c) What are the plans of Government to procure and distribute these fertilisers?

(d) What doses of Nitrogenous, Phosphatic, and Potassic fertilisers have been found to give best yields of paddy and wheat in different provinces and what is the corresponding increase in yield thereby?

(e) What are the places where such experiments have been made?

(f) Is there any publication in which the results of such experiments have been recorded?

(g) If so, do Government propose to place a copy of the publication on the table of the House and if there is none, do Government propose to give references?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) (i) The increase from the use of improved seeds varies between 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. in case of different cereal crops in different regions.

(ii) The increase in yield due to irrigation, whether from major or minor irrigated projects is between 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. in case of rice and wheat depending on the regional rainfall. It is regretted that information province-wise is not available.

(iii) With regard to manures and fertilisers information will be given in answer to part (h) of this question.

(b) The quantity of fertilizers to be applied per acre and the corresponding increase in yield per acre vary with the soil type, climatic condition and nature of crops grown and also whether the crops are irrigated or unirrigated. A detailed statement giving the results of manurial experiments conducted in the various provinces is placed on the table of the House.

(c) All the quantities of nitrogenous fertilisers allocated to India by the International Emergency Food Council are imported on State account and are pooled with the indigenous supplies and supplied to Provincial Governments. The scheme has been in operation since 1943-44; is run on 'No profit no loss' basis, and will continue so long as imports are considered necessary. As regards phosphatic fertilisers, the Government of India have recently started a scheme under which superphosphate and horsemeal are also distributed by the Government of India to the Provinces and States at prices fixed.

(d) and (e). Information has already been given in reply to (b) above.

(f) and (g). Copies† of three publications containing information referred to are placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Showing the increase in yield of paddy with the application of manures in different parts of India.

(Increase percentage in yield per acre)

Province	Application of inorganic fertilizers.	Application of cakes	Application of green manure etc.
1	2	3	4
Bengal	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 20—40 lbs. N per acre, increases yield from 12·0 to 44·0%	Groundnut and mustard cake at 20—40 lbs. N per acre increases yield from 24·0 to 41·0%	Green Manuring increases yield by 23 % and F.Y.M. by 10·0%
Madras	Ammonium sulphate at the rate of 30—45 lbs. N. per acre increases yield from 15—35%	Cakes supplying Nitrogen 20 to 60 lbs. per acre, increases yield from 15—45%	Green manuring with 60—90 lbs. N increases yield by 100%

† Not printed in the day's Debate. Copies placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the Labour Ministers' Conference a decision was taken to make this organisation permanent. But with regard to the centre there is at present a constitutional difficulty, employment being in the State list. If in the draft constitution it is included in the concurrent list that difficulty may be removed.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know what part of this expenditure was incurred on publicity and on advertising the achievement of the department?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: For expenditure under the separate heads I shall require notice.

FOREIGN DEPUTATIONS SENT DURING 1948-49

*1633. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many foreign deputations have been sent during the year 1948-49 and to what countries?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred by the Government for sending such deputations to foreign countries?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Sponsoring Ministry	Number of Foreign deputation	Purpose of deputation	Country to which sent	Cost incurred
1	2	3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
I. Finance	1	To attend the 3rd session of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs.	U.S.A.	3,602 6 0
	2	Sterling Balances Delegation	U. K.	1,40,000 0 0
	3	To attend the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank.	U.S.A.	Not known.
	4	To attend the Conference of Sterling Areas.	U. K.	..
II. Food	5	Deputation of Mr. H. L. Khanna to supervise the shipping of rice.	Egypt	14,400 0 0
	6	Deputation to negotiate the wheat agreement for 1948-49.	Australia	16,850 0 0
	7	Deputation to supervise Purchase etc. of rice.	Indo-China	7,400 0 0
	8	To negotiate price for Australian wheat.	Australia	17,382 0 0
	9	To negotiate purchase of food-grains.	U.S.A	15,400 0 0
	10	To negotiate rice prices for 1949.	Burma	2,800 0 0
III. Labour	11	First session of the International Labour Office Industrial Committee meeting on chemicals	France	6,700 0 0
	12	Correspondence committee of I.L.O. on Social Insurance.	Canada	Expenses borne by I.L.O.
	13	Thirty-first session of the Int. Labour Conference.	U.S.A.	1,47,000 0 0
	14	Technical Tripartite Conference of I.L.O. to examine Draft Model Code of Safety Regulations for Factories	Switzerland.	14,000 0 0

1	2	3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
	15	Second session of the I.L.O. Industrial Committee on Textiles.	Switzerland	5,500 0 0
	16	Technical Conference of the Representatives of the Labour Inspection services.	Ceylon	750 0 0
	17	Expert Committee of the Joint Maritime Commission (ILO).	Switzerland	Not known.
	18	107th session of the Governing Body of the ILO.	Ditto.	8,000 0 0
	19	ILO Committee of Statistical experts.	Ditto.	Expenses borne by ILO.
	20	3rd session of the Permanent Migration Committee.	Ditto.	Expenses met by the Delegation at Berne.
	21	ILO meeting of experts on Safety in coal mines.	Ditto.	Expenses borne by ILO.
	22	108th session of the Governing body of the ILO.	Ditto.	8,000 0 0
	23	Second session of the I.L.O. Industrial Committee on Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works.	Italy	Not known.
IV. Health	24	17th International Red Cross Conference.	Sweden	Ditto.
	25	4th International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria.	U.S.A.	12,200 0 0
	26	The International Leprosy Congress.	Cuba	17,350 0 0
	27	The first International B. G. Congress.	France	1,600 0 0
	28	Delegation to study the various Medical Research Institutes.	U. S. A.	Not known.
	29	Delegation to contact leading manufacturers of pre-fabricated houses with a view to advise Government regarding the erection of factories for the construction of pre-fabricated houses in India and attendance at the International Congress for housing and Town Planning at Zurich as an observer of the Govt. of India.	U. K.	5,555. 7 0
	30	Health Congress of Royal Sanitary Institute.	U. K.	Not known.
	31	Study of methods of manufacture of Penicillin and Sulpha drugs etc.	U.S.A., U.K. Canada and Sweden.	25,000 0 0
	32	Conference for the 6th decennial revision of the International lists of diseases and causes of deaths.	France	Not known
	33	Indian delegation to the 1st World Health Assembly.	Switzerland	Ditto.
	34	Purchase of plant and machinery badly needed for the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board.	U. K.	Ditto.
V. Education	35	11th International Congress on Public education convened jointly by UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education.	Switzerland	10,000 0 0
	36	Seminar on the education and training of Teachers organised by UNESCO.	U. K.	Not known.

1	2	3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
	37	Preparatory International Conference of University representatives convened jointly by UNESCO and the Netherlands Govt.	Holland	10,184 0 0
	38	International Conference of High Attitude Research.	Switzerland	Not known.
	39	International Protection of Nature Conference convened, jointly by UNESCO and the French Government.	France	Nil.
	40	3rd session of the UNESCO General Conference.	Lebanon	45,000 0 0
	41	7th Int. Congress of Applied Machines.	U. K.	3,144 0 0
	42	The Int. Youth Conference	U. K.	925 0 0
	43	The International Congress of Orientalists.	France	2,992 0 0
	44	3rd session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.	Belgium	5,000 0 0
	45	Deputation of Scientists abroad	U.S.A. and Europe	48,000 0 0
	46	Delegation for Investigation of Borobudur Temple in Indonesia.	Indonesia	5,644 7 3
	47	Delegation to undertake a tour of European countries to collect material for the establishment of National Central Library at Delhi.	European countries	3,475 0 0
VI. Communications.	48	To represent India on the Executive and Liaison Committee of the Universal Postal Union and To finalise arrangements for the printing of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial stamps.	Switzerland	1,052 0 0
	49	For studying the British Post Office system.	U.K.	13,800 0 0
	50	To represent India on the Executive and Liaison Committee of the Universal Postal Union.	Switzerland	3,882 0 0
	51	Delegation in connection with the meeting of the Provisional Frequency Board.	Ditto.	80,000 0 0
	52	Deputation in connection with finalising arrangements for setting up of Telephone Manufacturing Factory in India.	Switzerland & U. K.	10,000 0 0
	53	Ditto.	U. K.	15,000 0 0
	54	Deputation to finalise modifications in the plan for Automatization of the Calcutta Telephone system prepared by the British Post Office Engineers in consultation with them and to arrange for demonstration and training equipment for the training classes in India.	U.K.	6,360 0 0
	55	To attend the annual meeting of U.K. the Commonwealth Communications Council	U.K.	8,000 0 0

1	2	3	4	5		
				Rs.	A.	P.
	56	Deputation in connection with the establishment of a Telephone factory in India. To attend to the printing of Gandhi *Mourning* stamps; and to attend the meeting of the Communication and Transport Council.	Switzerland	7,000	0	0
	57	To attend the Provisional Frequency Registration Board meeting.	Ditto.	9,906	0	0
	58	To attend the meeting of the South West Pacific Regional Commission of the International Meteorological Organisation.	New Zealand	5,122	0	0
	59	To attend the meeting of the Executive Council of the Int. Meteorological Organisation and Meeting of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.	Norway	5,849	8	0
	60	International Conference of High Attitude Research.	Switzerland	is included in above.		
	61	For negotiations for the conclusion of a bilateral agreement with Pakistan relating to the operation of scheduled air services between India and Pakistan.	Pakistan	1,149	0	0
	62	To attend:— (i) ICAO Facilitation of Air Transport Division meeting. (ii) ICAO Legal Committee meeting. (iii) ICAO second Assembly meeting.	Switzerland	32,035	0	
	63	For attending the 3rd session of the Communications Division of the ICAO.	Canada	9,615	0	
VII. Railways	64	Deputation of Mechanical Engineers to Germany and Central Europe for recruitment of technical personnel required for various construction projects on Indian Govt. Railways.	Germany and Central Europe	29,000	0	0
	65	A deputation of Mechanical Engineers for negotiating purchase of Locomotives and Wagons.	Japan	9,700	0	0
	66	Deputation of Traffic Officer as Adviser to the Indian Delegation to the Transport and Communications Division of UN. and to study the statistical methods of day-to-day operation on Railways.	Switzerland & U. K.	8,000	0	0
	67	A deputation of the Chief Commissioner of Railways for investigating manufacturing capacity for locomotives for Indian Government Railways.	U. K. Europe & U.S.A.	7,000	0	0
VIII. Agriculture	68	Indian delegation to the International Rinderpest Conference.	East Africa			
	69	Indian delegation to the specialist Conference on tropical and sub-tropical soils.	U. K.			

1	2	3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
	70	Deputation of two officers for collecting information on seasoning of wood etc.	U.S.A., U.K & Canada.	
	71	Indian delegation to the 4th Commonwealth Mycological Conference.	U. K.	
	72	Indian delegation to the 5th Commonwealth Entomological Conference.	U. K.	
	73	Deputation to attend the meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee of the S.E.A. Liaison Officers meeting.	Singapore	
	74	Deputation to attend the Anti-Locust Convention.	Iran	
	75	Indian delegation to the inaugural meeting of the International Rice Commission.	Siam	*1,51,085 0 0
	76	Deputation to attend the second session of the World Food Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.	U.S.A	
	77	Deputation of Mr. B.R. Sen, ICS, to act as Chairman of the FAO/ECAFE Joint Working Party on Agricultural Requisites.	U.S.A.	
	78	Indian Delegation to the 4th session of the FAO of the UN.	U.S.A.	
IX. Industry & Supply.	79	To study the latest developments in the field of plastics.	U.K. & U.S.A.	13,180 0 0
	80	Delegation to :— (i) obtain, if possible, increased supplies of steel, (ii) examine the working of the DG (ISD) and ISM with a view to their reorganisation. (iii) discuss how far foreign countries can assist India in connection with contemplated development projects.	U-K., U.S.A., Belgium, Luxemburg, & Switzerland.	7,850 0 0
X. Works, Mines & Power.	81	National Congress on Housing and Town Planning.	Switzerland.	5,705 5 0
	82	International Geological Congress	U. K.	
	83	Specialist Conference on Geology and Mineral resources.	U. K.	0,000 0 0
	84	International Commission on Large Dams.	Sweden	
	85	International Association of Hydraulic Structure.	Ditto.	
	86	International Commission on soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering.	Holland	16,795 5 0
XI. Transport	87	Delegation to the 2nd session of the Transport and Communications Commission.	Switzerland	Nil as Mr. V.K.R. Menon was in Geneva.
	88	Delegation to the 3rd session of the Transport and Communications Commission.	New York	Not known.
XII. I & B	89	To attend the UN Conference on Freedom of Information.	Switzerland	Ditto.
	90	To represent India on the Planning Committee of the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference.	Ditto.	Ditto.
	91	To participate in the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference.	Mexico	Ditto.
	92	To participate in the meeting of the Radio Programme Committee.	France	Ditto.

1	2	3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
XIII. Commerce	93	A deputation to informally discuss with U.K. Ministry of Transport certain matters concerning acquisition of tonnage and entry Indian shipping to overseas Trade.	U.K.	Not known
	94	A deputation to conduct negotiations with the Govt. of Ceylon for supplies of copra.	Ceylon	1,326 9 0
	95	For organising India Pavilion at the displays :— (i) Milan Fair, Italy, held from 26-4-48 to 16-5-48. (ii) Canadian National Exhibition, 1948, held from 27-8-48 to 11-9-48.	Italy and Canada.	24,000 0 0
	96	Indian delegation to the second session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the 2nd session of the Executive Committee of the Interim Commission for International Trade Organisation.	Switzerland	64,000 0 0
	97	Cotton delegation to negotiate the purchase of long staple raw cotton for India on a barter basis (in exchange for Indian commodities such as jute, tea, hides and skins, cotton piece goods and tobacco).	Egypt	12,500 0 0
	98	Cotton delegation to finalise the arrangements for the bulk purchase of India's requirements of East African cotton 1948-49 crop, conjointly with the U.K. Raw Cotton Commission.	East Africa.	20,000 0 0
	99	Delegation to the International Conference on the Safety of Life at Sea.	U.K.	20,523 0 0
	100	Delegation to negotiate an agreement for the mutual exchange of certain essential commodities.	Pakistan	
	101	Delegation to discuss with Pakistan the question of implementing the Karachi (May 1948) agreement in respect of raw jute to be supplied to India by Pakistan (in July 1948).	Ditto.	11,000 0 0
		A delegation to enter into an Agreement with Pakistan for proper fulfilment of Karachi (May 1948) agreement (Oct. 48).		
	103	A delegation for discussing the question of supply of raw cotton and raw jute to India (December 1948).	Ditto.	
	104	Trade delegation to discuss the possibilities of concluding over all sterling area trade arrangement with SCAP.	Japan	3,100 0 0
	105	Trade Delegation	Iran	Not known.
	106	Trade Delegation	Afghanistan	16,500 0 0
	107	Indian Trade Delegation	Germany, France and Czechoslovakia.	18,000 0 0

2		3	4	5
				Rs. A. P.
	108	Delegation for collecting information about the possibility of developing export.	Philippines.	6,000 0 0
XIV. Department of Scientific Research.	109	Deputation in connection with work of the Atomic Energy Commission.	U.K. & certain countries of Europe.	32,000 0 0
	110	A delegation of 4 Scientists as guests of the Australian Govt. to tour Scientific Institutions in Australia.	Australia	
	111	Delegation to the 2nd special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.	U.S.A.	850 4 0
	112	Third regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.	France	4,45,492 0 0
	113	Delegation to the 8th session of the Economic and Social Council.	Switzerland.	12,000 0 0 (Approx.)
	114	Delegation to the 3rd session of the Commission on Human Rights.	U.S.A.	11,000 0 0 (Approx.)
	115	Delegation to the 2nd session of the Statistical Commission.	U.S.A.	2,946 8 0
	116	Delegation to the secon dsession of the Sub-Commission of Statistical Sampling.	Switzerland	Paid by U.N.
	117	Delegation to the 4th session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.	Australia	23,000 0 0
	118	Delegation to the 3rd session of the Economic and Employment Commission.	U.S.A.	12,744 10 0
	119	Delegation to the 3rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.	Lebanon.	Not known.
	120	Delegation to the 2nd session of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development.	U.S.A.	Borne by the U. N.
	121	Delegation to the Security Council in connection with Kashmir dispute. (The delegation went in January 1948 but continued to work there during 48-49 also.)	U.S.A.	2,73,000 0 0
	122	Delegation to the Security Council for the Hyderabad Question.	France	10,000 0 0
	123	Delegation to the Inter-Dominion Conference held in connection with the sale etc. of the evacuee property.	Pakistan	12,000 0 0
	124	International Conference of the Legal Profession.	Holland	10,000 0 0
	125	Delegation to the Korean Commission.	Korea	12,000 0 0
	126	Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference.	U. K.	20,000 0 0
	127	Ethiopian Goodwill Mission	Ethiopia	23,000 0 0
	128	Goodwill Mission to Bahrain and Kuwait.	Bahrain and Kuwait.	625 12 0
		GRAND TOTAL		21,66,346 10 3 (Approximately

Dr. Monomohan Das: May I know whether trade delegations are included in the list?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

STARTING LOTTERIES FOR REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

*1634. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any institution or concern has suggested to Government to start lotteries for the purpose of rehabilitating displaced persons?

(b) If so, has such a proposal been considered and with what result?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal has not been approved.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the reasons why it is not approved?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I think I gave the reasons before. They are:

(i) Government do not subscribe to the view that the end justifies the means. Lotteries only appeal to the gambling instincts and should not be encouraged by Government on moral grounds;

(ii) Those who will gamble (and there may be refugees among them) may not be in a position to afford to do so.

(iii) Government accepted the task of rehabilitation of refugees as a sacred trust to be discharged out of its general resources. It could not be held that lack of funds alone was responsible for delay in this work;

(iv) For a Government to resort to a lottery for raising funds was to admit its bankruptcy and would adversely affect its credit both inside and outside the country;

(v) It might affect contributions by the public towards loan floated by Government and towards certain other national funds;

(vi) It is not the policy of Government to raise separate funds to meet any particular expenditure;

(vii) The sale of tickets would have to be limited to India only as sale of tickets in foreign countries might involve exchange complications;

(viii) Government having in recent years banned the sale of lottery tickets of certain foreign countries (Burma, Malta and Goa) could not now sell lottery tickets in foreign countries;

(ix) The expectation that the lottery would raise large amounts is not justified and might prove to be wrong.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Prize Bond system of the present Government comes within the category of lottery?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Honourable Member is aware that the present Government is not responsible for introducing the Prize Bond system. It was introduced by the previous Government during the war.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But is not the system being continued?

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Has any scheme of rehabilitation been held up for want of funds?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Unless the honourable member refers to any particular scheme I cannot reply off-hand.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF INDIAN SEAMEN EMPLOYED IN FOREIGN COMPANIES

*1635. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Indian seamen employed by foreign

companies are getting the same conditions of service regarding pay and other benefits as the seamen of other nationalities?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps are proposed to be taken for the benefit of Indian seamen?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). The wages and certain other conditions of service of Indian seamen employed by foreign companies are not as favourable as those enjoyed by seamen of other nationalities. This disparity does not obtain in the coastal trade, but only in the overseas trades, as in the coastal trade non-Indian crews are not generally employed. The conditions on which Indian seamen are employed are primarily a matter for resettlement between employers and the seamen themselves. But Government have used their good offices as and when appropriate occasions arose in securing improvement in such conditions. The wages of Indian seamen have increased by 400 per cent. since 1939. Government can reasonably claim that this improvement has in no small measure been due to their efforts. It is the intention of Government to have the conditions of employment of Indian seamen progressively improved till they reach the standards prescribed for them in the various Maritime International Labour Conventions adopted in 1946. To secure this objective Government use their good offices with the Maritime Boards that have been formed in Calcutta and Bombay and at International Labour Conferences where their representatives endeavour to secure the early ratification of the various International Conventions by other countries whose ships employ Indian seamen.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know the comparative wages paid to seamen in America, Britain, China and India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have the figures for the U.K. So far as the U.K. is concerned, the wages of an Indian deck-hand before the war used to be Rs. 25 per month; now the wages stand at Rs. 125. So far as the British rates are concerned, the pre-war rate was Rs. 135, and now it has been raised to Rs. 270 per month.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: On how many occasions were the good offices of Government used and with what results?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A number of international conferences have taken place at which such questions were discussed and also in the organisation of the Maritime Boards which have now been functioning, and recently Government have decided to participate in the Maritime Boards which were of a bipartite character previously and now with the admission of Government representatives on these Boards they will be tripartite in character. It is these Boards which will be concerned with detailed negotiations in this behalf with the employers.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is there any difference in the kind of work performed by the Indian seamen and the other seamen for the difference in wages to be so great?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is really the justification put forward by the employers.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that Indian seamen today draw 400 per cent. more wages. May I know the comparative figures of the other countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have given the figures. In the case of the U.K. seamen it rose from 135 to 270 and in the case of the Indian seamen it rose from 25 to 125.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to provide welfare facilities for Indian seamen in London and Liverpool?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That does not directly arise—but yes.

Srijut Baidhar Chaliha: May I know whether the amenities given to our seamen are the same as those given to European seamen on board the ships?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not exactly the same in character.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know if there is any difference in the hours of work of the Indian seamen and the British seamen?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There used to be a difference in the hours of work, but we have definitely insisted upon equality so far at least as hours of work are concerned.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know whether they are employed by the companies on an annual basis and the number of days of work which they must put in?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I know they are not employed on an annual basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any disparity in the food supplied to the Indian seamen and the English seamen?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As far as I am aware, yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has there been any improvement in the food supplied to Indian seamen?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, that has been my information.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the training of seamen is included in the terms of reference of the Indian Merchant Navy Officers Training Committee?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is so: as a matter of fact the Committee is just now engaged on an inquiry into this particular question; they have reported on other matters but their report on this particular question is awaited.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether steps have been taken to remove the distinctions existing between rest houses for Indian seamen and European seamen?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: All this is under consideration.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: May I know the number of Indian seamen employed on British and other liners?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I cannot give the number straightway.

MEMBERSHIP OF I.N.T.U.C., A.I.T.U.C. AND SOCIALIST GROUP

*1686. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total membership of the affiliated Unions of the I.N.T.U.C., A.I.T.U.C. and the Socialist group (labour)?

(b) How many strikes were sponsored by each one of them during 1948?

(c) Which of the three is recognised by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Information regarding the total number of affiliated unions and membership as on the 31st December, 1948 was called for from the Indian National Trade Union Congress, All India Trade

Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha. The respective claims of these organisations are given in the statement below:

Name of the organisation.	*Number of unions*	*Membership on 31st Dec. 1948*
Indian National Trade Union Congress	747	986,983
All-India Trade Union Congress	737*	6,86,727*
Hind Mazdoor Sabha	389	6,16,862

These figures have not yet been verified.
* The figures include Unions in French India and Unions which have since dissociated or sought disaffiliation.

(b) Government have no information of the number of strikes sponsored by each organisation. The total number of strikes, however, during the quarters ending the 31st March and the 30th June 1948 were 360 and 353 respectively. The provisional figures for the period July to December, 1948, are as follows:

Month	*Total number of strikes*
July ...	86
August ...	85
September ...	76
October ...	90
November ...	99
December ...	95

(c) All of them have been recognised by Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the A.I.T.U.C. as well as the Hind Mazdoor Sabha have disavowed all responsibility for implementing the Industrial Truce?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: This is not equally true in the case of both the organisations. The All-India Trade Union Congress from the very beginning did not accept the Industrial Truce Resolution. The Hind Mazdoor Sabha accepted it in writing. As to how far they have implemented it I am not in a position to give any definite reply at this stage.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know under part (b) how many strikes were successful and how many failed?

Mr. Speaker: Successful? It is a matter purely of opinion.

EXPORT OF MICA

*1637. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the exports of Mica have declined and if so, why?

(b) What action is being taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim: May I know what steps have been taken for the implementation of the recommendations of the Mica Enquiry Committee?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The matter is under consideration.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What is the total tonnage of export allowed of mica—the quantity produced and the quantity exported?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For which particular year?

Dr. V. Subramaniam: For last year.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In 1947 the quantity of mica export was 192,671 cwt. During 1948 it has gone up to 349,488 cwt.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to provide processing facilities to the mica miners and also dollar exchange so that they can import the necessary machinery for developing processing here?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That also is under consideration because this is one of the recommendations of the Mica Enquiry Committee.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Are any steps being taken to see that mica may be consumed in this country?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: To the extent possible this will be done.

INDIAN CONSULATES AND EMBASSIES

*1638. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Consulates and Embassies have been established after the last Budget Session?

(b) What are the names and salaries of those who have been appointed either as Ambassadors, Consuls or Consul-Generals

(c) What are the names of the places where these Consulates and Embassies have been established?

(d) What is the total number of officers in each such Consulate and Embassy?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Showing Embassies, Legations, Consulates-General, Consulates etc. opened since the 31st March 1948.

Serial No.	Name and designation of Head of Mission	Salary	Station	Total number of gazetted officers in the Mission.	
1	Wing Commander Rup Chand, Ambassador of India in Afghanistan	Rs. 2,000 p.m.	Kabul	Ambassador	1
				First Secretary	1
				Cultural Relations Officer	1
				Third Secretary	1
				Information Officer	1
				Registrar	1
				Total	6
2	Diwan Chaman Lall, Bar.-at-Law, Ambassador of India in Turkey	Rs. 3,000 p.m.	Ankara	Ambassador	1
				Counsellor	1
				First Secretary	1
				Commercial Attache	1
				Registrar	1
				Total	5
3	Mr. N. Raghavan, Bar-at-Law, Ambassador of India in Czecho-slovakia.	Rs. 3,000 p.m.	Prague	Ambassador	1
				First Secretary	1
				Second Secretary	1
				Information Officer	1
				Registrar	1
				Total	5
4	Mr. R. S. Mani, I.C.S., Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of India in Italy.	Pay in Senior Time Scale of I.C.S.	Rome	Charge d' Affaires	1
				Second Secretary	1
				Total	2
5	Mr. M. B. Masani, Bar-at-Law, Ambassador of India in Brazil	Rs. 3,000 p.m.	Rio de Janeiro	Ambassador	1
				First Secretary	1
				Cultural Relations Officer	1
				Commercial Secretary	1
				Registrar	1
				Total	5

6	Mr. R. K. Nehru, I.C.S., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of India in Sweden	Rs. 2,750 p.m.	Stockholm	Minister First Secretary		1 1
					Total	2
7	Mr. B. R. Sahgal, Consul-General of India in New York	Rs. 2,250 p.m.	New York	Consul-General Seamen's Welfare Officer Registrar		1 1 1
					Total	3
8	Mr. S. E. Kirpalani, I.C.S., Consul-General of India in San Francisco	Rs. 2,250 p.m.	San Francisco	Consul-General Registrar		1 1
					Total	2
9	Mr. R. D. Sathe, I. F. S., Consul-General of India in Kashgar	Rs. 800 p.m. in I. F. S. scale.	Kashgar (China).	Consul-General		1
10	Mr. Abdul Majid Khan, M.A., Consul of India in Saudi Arabia	Rs. 800 p.m.	Jedda	Consul Information Officer		1 1
					Total	2
11	Mr. S. R. Aiyer, Consul of India in South Siam	Rs. 800 p.m. (In addition to pension.)	Songkhla	Consul		1
12	Mr. A. T. G. Wilson, Indian Vice-Consul, Zahidan	Rs. 1,000—50—1,250 p.m.	Zahidan (Iran).	Vice-Consul		1
13	Mr. Gopal Das Seth, Indian Vice-Consul in Sumatra	Rs. 600—40—800 p.m.	Medan	Vice-Consul		1

Summary of Missions opened after Budget Session in February-March 1948.

(i) Embassies	5 (Afghanistan, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Italy and Brazil).
(ii) Legations	1 (Sweden).
(iii) Consulates-General	3 (New York, San Francisco and Kashgar).
(iv) Consulates	2 [Saudi Arabia (Jedda) and South Siam (Songkhla)].
(v) Vice-Consulates	2 [Zahidan (Iran) and Medan (Sumatra)].

REPETITION OF QUESTIONS INVOLVING ENORMOUS LABOUR IN PREPARATION OF ANSWERS

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, may I seek your guidauce in regard to certain questions which involve cuormous labour in the preparation of their answers? The question which has just been answered by a statement being laid on the table has been asked, I think, roughly about a dozen times in slightly varyiug forms. Thia represents 95 per cent. the same, with something slightly different. We have to go through the same labour again and again and we have to employ additioual staff for it. There is one question in today's list by the honourable member Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena—I think it is No. 1668—the information we are going to supply in respect of which covers about thirty to forty pages of typed material. We have actually had to engage special staff for preparing it, not to speak of the large volume of printed papers and documents to be supplied—so that I just wanted to seek your guidance and the guidance of the House as to how we are to deal with these questions which come again and again and which involve so much labour which I think is hardly necessary. Any specific point we are always prepared to answer; but this kind of wide encyclopaedic information on every occasion makes it difficult for us to function

Mr. Speaker: The aspect pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the House has also caused an amouut of anxiety and consideration on my part while admitting questions. If the question has been previously answered substantially in respect of the same matter, I generally disallow the question on the grouud that the question bus been answered already. But if there is, as he pointed out, some variation in the question, it becomes difficult to rule out that question. I have also recently advised the Members to put in unstarred questions in reapect of certain information that they want; but that does not, of course, meet the difficulty pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the House, because whether it is starred or unstarred, the amount of labour in collecting the information is the same. I think the best course would be for honourable members themselves when they put any questions to study the previous records. I may also mention that a new system has been introduced since last year, namely that of publishing the Questions and Answers as a separate volume with a separate index for them. This was done with a view to avoid the difficulty that arises as to whether questions have been previously put on that subject or not. Members may as well take advantage of that. That is one thing.

Sometimes questions are admitted before other questions which are also admitted are answered in the House and the supplementaries put supply the answer to queations previously admitted. That also sometimes happens. Then it becomes impossible to take out, the admitted Question from the list of Questions. That is also one of the reasons why there is a repetition of the same question over and over again. But in cases of the type, which the Honourable the Leader of the House has pointed out, I think it is always open to Government to aay that the time and trouble involved is not commensurate with the advantages of the information which they could give. They may also as well point out the relevant records from which the information can be had.

I am supported herein by a previous ruling, as the Secretary points out to me.

I do recognise the necessity of honourable members considering, in the new set up, the nature of the information that they should have and the length of Questions which they should put. One rule allows me to disallow questions

which are of excessive length; that also I am trying to do. But after all, in all this, one requires the co-operation and proper understanding of the attitude on the part of members. I do not think I can give any further general view of the matter.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I just make a representation?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, we may discuss this after the Question Hour is over.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I think. The honourable member may well do that by seeing me in the Chamber at any convenient time.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I do not want to utilise that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, No. 1639.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: To save the time of the House, I would not put this Question.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Next Question.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: The same, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I may say one thing about these Questions. If he does not put the Questions they will not find a place at all in the reports.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: I do not attach much importance to it.

Mr. Nazirudd in Ahmad: It does not save the time of the House at all. We spend one hour, and the Ministers have undergone all the labour, so it does not save anybody's time.

Mr, Speaker: It saves the time of the Question Hour. Next Question.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

*1641. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any scheme has been prepared by Government to provide houses for the working classes in various parts of the country?

(b) Do Government intend to ask the industrialists to contribute towards the cost of such a scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Government of India have recently approved a general scheme of Industrial housing, the details of which will be published shortly. In addition, the Government of India have a scheme for the construction of houses for coalminers, which is being administered by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund.

(b) As regards the main Industrial Housing Scheme, a due share of the cost will be recovered from employers.

So far as the housing of colliery miners is concerned, the cost is met by the levy of an excise duty on coal and coke despatched from the collieries.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do Government intend, as far as part (b) is concerned, to recover the amount from industrialists by legislation or by some executive orders?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It will be decided on experience whether legislation is necessary or whether it may be done by executive order with the co-operation of the employers.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do Government intend to take steps to ask the existing industrialists to build houses for the workers where they do not exist?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It covers both the existing and new industries.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITIES

*1642. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to stimulate scientific research in the universities especially Atomic Physics?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Universities have to perform the dual functions of training scientific workers and of conducting fundamental and applied research. The Government of India are stimulating scientific research in universities by—

(1) sanctioning grants-in-aid for buildings and equipment required for research, the expansion of special research departments and the conduct of approved research schemes;

(2) the discovery and training of talented persons through post-graduate schemes and fellowships.

Grants-in-aid totalling over Rs. 28 lakhs have been sanctioned for this purpose during 1948-49.

Fellowships have been awarded for research in nuclear physics. A National Professorship of Physics has been created at the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. A conference of university representatives and eminent scientists convened by the Atomic Energy Commission met in New Delhi on the 20th and 21st January, 1949, and discussed the drafting of suitable syllabuses for the teaching of nuclear physics, chemistry and mathematics in our universities to equip the students for higher research in these subjects. A Committee of experts is now drawing up draft syllabuses for the teaching of these subjects in our universities.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: What are the Universities in which nuclear physics is being taught at present?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not straightaway give a precise answer, but certainly Calcutta, Allahabad and some others.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know whether the Andhra University is one of the Universities in which this Department to conduct atomic research is being undertaken?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know whether the subject of scientific research is included in the terms of reference of the University Commission?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know, but to some extent I suppose it must be so because there are very eminent scientists on the University Commission.

FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL LABOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

*1643. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what are the functions of the Central Labour Advisory Council?

(b) Have the Provincial Governments been advised to form such councils for the provinces and if so, what are the provinces where such councils are functioning?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The functions of the Central Advisory Council of Labour are set out in para. 3 of the Ministry of Labour Resolution No. IR. 86(9), dated the 29th September 1948, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature.

(b) Yes. Provincial Laboratory Advisory Boards have been set up in all the Provinces except Orissa. The Government of that Province are considering the question of constituting a Board.

COMPLAINTS RE CLAY-MIXING WITH GROUNDNUT EXPORTED FROM INDIA

*1644. **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been received so far by the Government of India regarding clay-mixing in groundnuts exported abroad;

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take against such exporters;

(c) whether Government are aware that clay-mixing is an established process with the foreign-owned and the big groundnut exporting firms; and

(d) whether Government are aware that hand-decorticators, as introduced by the Groundnut Organisation, eliminate all clay from groundnuts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) One complaint was received from a representative of a Canadian firm, who visited India in 1948.

(b) No action could be taken in the matter as particulars of the firm or firms responsible for this practice have not been furnished to the Government of India.

(c) Government have no information in the matter.

(d) No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Minister aware of the fact that the Agriculture Ministry, in their marketing report on groundnut, at page 193, have published a photograph regarding the method of mixing clay with groundnuts?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Well, I know the Agriculture Ministry is examining this aspect of the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken to prevent any such adulteration?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The Agricultural Marketing Adviser is considering what steps could be taken by that Ministry for the purpose of checking the quality of our exports of this kind.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In answer to part (d), I heard the Honourable Minister say, "No". My question was "whether Government are aware that hand-decorticators, as introduced by the Groundnut Organisation, eliminate all clay from groundnuts?" If the Honourable Minister does not know already, would he make inquiries and find out if that is a better process?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, I did see a photograph of a machine of this kind, but I would invite my honourable friend's attention to an answer given by my honourable colleague the Minister of Agriculture to a question asked by Babu Ramnarayan Singh on the 30th March last in which this is what my honourable colleague stated:

"The type of hand decorticator now in use is not considered very suitable. The Indian Oilseeds Committee has announced a prize of Rs. 2,000 which will be granted to any person or body who designs the best model of decorticator at a cost not exceeding Rs. 100. The designs are to be received before 31st October 1949, after which the best design received will be selected by the Committee and steps will be taken for propagating its use."

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that continued mixing of clay reduces our market for groundnuts in foreign countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am perfectly aware of the undesirable practices that obtain in this matter, but I should like to tell the House that the very terms of agreement between the Indian supplier and the foreign buyer do provide for a percentage of impurities. As a matter of fact, a model contract which goes by the name of Marseilles contract permits impurities up to two per cent. Then in regard to exports to the U.K., they are generally made on the basis of coutract terms formulated by the Incorporated Oilseeds Association and this contract fixes the price on pure basis and permits discount at prescribed scale for impurities. The specific complaint to which I have made reference is to the effect that impurities are mixed just to come up to the permissible percentage of impurities. It is not as if the impurities exceed the permissible limit.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Our export of oilseeds is divided into advance quota and supplementary quota. May I know the advantages of this system?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I wonder whether this arises out of the question. As a matter of fact, I have written a letter to my honourable friend explaining the very point.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Yes, Sir. I have received that letter. But may I know the reasons why this classification has been adopted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Advanced quotas are generally granted in respect of the first half year.

LICENCES FOR EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT TO ITALY

*1645. **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether some groundnut exporters were given licences to export groundnuts to Italy in dollars and others in sterling;

(b) if so, why this distinction was made;

(c) whether Government are aware that the exporters in dollars suffered losses because of this distinction;

(d) whether it is a fact that the foreign-owned and the big exporting firms were allowed to sell groundnuts in sterling to Italy and the producers were asked to sell in dollars alone; and

(e) whether Government would reconsider the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) During 1948, a quota of 5,500 tons of groundnut in terms of oil for export to Italy was fixed by the International Emergency Food Council, the entire quota being allowed to be exported to Italy against sterling. The quotas were given 90 per cent. to established shippers and 10 per cent. to newcomers. Apart from the quotas fixed by the I.E.F.C., the Government of India set aside a further quota for export to hard currency countries. Some shippers asked for a portion of the hard currency quota to be given to them for export to Itlay on the ground that that country was anxious to pay in dollars for additioonal supplies over and above the I.E.F.C. allocation.

(b) From what has been explained, it will be clear that no distinction was made and only such shippers got licences for export to Italy against dollars as specially asked for it.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Were all persons who wanted permits to be given for export in dollars granted licences?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, but then in some cases the parties could not produce evidence of sale. In those cases, licences could not be confirmed.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What was the special reason for some of the shippers asking for export to hard currency areas?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is known to them, not to me.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Except good price, what are the other considerations which weigh with Government in allowing export to one country in preference to another?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: In this particular instance, as we needed dollars very much, we did allow licences on the promise of payment in dollars.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was the whole of the surplus quota given to such shippers as were anxious to export to countries where they could earn hard currency?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know about the whole being given. Quotas were allocated on the basis of demands that they put forward and on the basis of proof of sale they could produce.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Was the surplus also given on the basis of 90 to 10?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: No.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that most of the surplus quota went to foreign shippers and the big companies here?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact, so far as exports to hard currency areas are concerned, in this instance Italy was also treated as hard currency area because payment was to be made in hard currency. In so far as such exports are concerned, we generally observe no distinction. Our look out is to earn as much hard currency as we can.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that foreign firms in India were given quota for soft currency and producers were given for hard currency?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have already said that no such distinction was ever made.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer that it is for the exporters to know why they are wanting quotas for hard currencies, do not the Government see, in the interests of more things being exported to dollar countries, when there is an application for exporting in sterling, that this thing should also be exported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As a matter of fact we are doing our best in every way possible to improve our exports to dollar countries.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any of the firms for whom permits were granted for export for sterling offered to export for dollars also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, some of them did.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What was the inducement for them to obtain permits for export in dollars when the latter could not be so profitable as export for sterling?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is because the purchaser in Italy was anxious to get additional quotas outside the International allocation and was prepared to pay in dollars.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the recommendation made by the Oilseeds Committee that so far as the ten per cent. is concerned, preference should be given to the growers and growers' co-operatives?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There is another question on that particular point, but I have not seen the formal proceedings of the Oilseeds Committee though I know the substance of the discussion that took place on that occasion and I am answering a question specifically on this point.

CLAUSE RELATING TO INCOME-TAX IN APPLICATION FORMS FOR EXPORT QUOTAS

*1646. **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) why the clause relating to income-tax is included in the application forms for export quotas;

(b) whether the clause is applicable to all applications or whether there are any exceptions;

(c) whether any investigation is made to find out if the clause is correctly answered; and

(d) whether any cases of incorrect answers have been detected and if so with what results?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The clause relating to the payment of income-tax is included in the application form for export licences for a number of reasons. Firstly, it helps the Licensing Officers in making sure that the firm which is applying is not a bogus one and further that the same firm does not apply for licences in a number of names. Secondly, it enables the Licensing Officers to judge the financial standing of the applicant which is relevant in determining the firm's ability to handle the trade. Finally, it is a part of Government policy not to afford any kind of patronage to firms or individuals who are dodging the payment of income-tax.

(b) This clause is applicable to all classes of applicants except those mentioned (i) in paragraphs 2(a) (b) (c) and (d), 4 and 5 of the Public Notice No. 1(2)-ITC/49, dated 8th January 1949, and (ii) in the Public Notice dated the 3rd February 1949, copies of which are laid on the table.

(c) The Income-Tax Officer of the circle in which the firm or individual is situated certifies the correctness of the answers given by the applicant.

(d) No such case has come to the notice of Government.

No. 1(2)ITC/49

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

New Delhi, the 8th January 1949

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of India have decided that with effect from the licensing period January-June 1949 applications for import and export licences whether from quota holders, manufacturers, established importers or exporters or newcomers will not be considered unless the applicant has lodged certificates of income-tax verification in the prescribed form with such of the following licensing offices to which they make their applications for import or export licences:

1. Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.
2. Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi.
3. Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay.
4. Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta.
5. Import Trade Controller, Madras.
6. Export Trade Controller, Madras, and
7. Export Trade Controller, Amritsar.

(i) The certificates shall be in the form appended to this Notice. The applicant or his authorised agent should fill in the particulars as required in the form, on as many copies as are required, with one additional copy to be maintained by the Income-Tax Office and present them to the Income-Tax authority. The Income-Tax authority will then verify the particulars from their record, subscribe the necessary verification certificates on all copies and return them to the applicant, leaving one copy for their record specified in (ii) below.

(ii) Except in the case of applicants assessed or assessable to tax in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi, the form after being filled in should be sent by the applicant or by his authorised agent for verification to the Income-tax Officer of the Circle, Ward or District where the applicant is assessed or assessable to income-tax. In the case of applicants from Bombay or Calcutta, the form should be sent to the Headquarters Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax in those cities and in the case of those from Madras and Delhi to the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax.

(iii) It will be noticed that the certificate calls for particulars of assessable incomes and taxes paid for a period of last five years including the income-tax year 1948-49. This certificate once produced, will be regarded as valid for all applications for import and export licences made by the applicant throughout the calendar year 1949.

(iv) For proprietary and partnership firms which have commenced business after 1st April 1948, it will be necessary to lodge certificates of income-tax verification with the Import and Export licensing authorities for the proprietor or proprietors and for each of the partners, as the case may be.

(v) The certificate when obtained should be sent by the applicant or his authorised agent to the licensing authority concerned in a cover clearly superscribed "INCOME-TAX VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE". Each certificate after receipt in the office of the licensing authority concerned will be registered and a registration number will be allotted in respect of it and communicated to the applicant who will quote the registration number prominently on all applications for import and export licences made thereafter.

2. The following classes of applicants will be specifically exempt from the necessity of producing the income-tax verification certificate:

(a) Such Government and semi-Government institutions as are not liable to income-tax.

(b) Firms, individuals or companies in Indian States where no income-tax is levied and who have no place of business in the Indian Provinces.

(c) Companies, public or private, which are incorporated under the Indian Companies Act after the 1st April 1948. Such companies should produce a certificate from the Registrar of Companies concerned showing the date of their incorporation.

(d) Other types of persons who are not otherwise liable to income-tax, under section 4(3) of the Indian Income-tax Act.

(e) Firms and individuals claiming to be exempt from income-tax should give particulars of their income and state fully the circumstances in which they claim to be exempted from the tax.

(f) Applicants claiming exemption from the production of income-tax verification certificate will also be allotted registration numbers in the same way as those who are required to produce the Income-tax Verification Certificate; but the allotment of registration numbers to them will be done at the Headquarters Office of the Chief Controller of Imports, instead of by the respective licensing authorities, and requests for registration by such applicants should be addressed to that office at New Delhi in a cover superscribed "Exemption from Income-tax Verification Certificate". After the registration number has been allotted and communicated to the applicant he should similarly quote that number on his applications for an import or export licence submitted to the proper licensing authority.

3. The Income-tax Authorities concerned have made arrangements for the issue of these Verification Certificates from the 25th January 1949. Arrangements have been made for the prompt issue of the Verification Certificates by the Income-tax authorities and for the registration of those certificates by the licensing authorities and for communication of these registration numbers to all the licensing officers.

4. Nothing stated in this Public Notice applies to applications for import and export licences for small values not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in c.i.f. and f.o.b. values, respectively.

5. Similarly in the case of persons, firms or companies who had their past import or export business or had been residing in what is now Pakistan and are therefore unable to comply with the requirement of this notice, application for import or export licences will be considered

without the production of the Income-tax Verification Certificate. They should, however, produce sufficient evidence to show that they had their place of business or had been resided in what is now Pakistan and are therefore unable to produce the verification certificate.

6. Should Government decide from time to time to exempt any other classes of individuals or firms from having to produce the certificate of income-tax verification, such decision will be duly announced.

G. R. KAMAT,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENT TO BE PRODUCED BY AN APPLICANT FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES

(To be filled in by the applicant for import and/or export licences.)

1. Name and business address of the applicant.
2. Year in which the business was established.
3. Name and address in which the applicant is assessed to income-tax.
4. Whether the applicant is assessed to income-tax as :
   (a) Individual,
   (b) Hindu Undivided Family,
   (c) Company,
   (d) Firm, or
   (e) Association of persons.
5. The Income-Tax Circle/Ward/District in which the applicant is assessed to income-tax.
6. (a) Reference No. (or G. I. R. No.) of the assessment.
   (b) Particulars of income-tax paid :

Year of assessment for purposes of Income-tax.	Income as assessed by the Income-tax Authority concerned.	Income-tax demanded by the Income-tax Authority concerned.	Income-tax paid.
1	2	3	4
1944-45			
1945-46			
1946-47			
1947-48			
1948-49			

(Note.—Amounts of income-tax shown in columns 3 and 4 above should include all forms of tax viz., Income-Tax, Super Tax (Capital Gains Tax), Surcharge, Excess Profit Tax and Business Profit Tax.)

(c) If any income-tax as demanded remains unpaid, reasons for it should be clearly stated.

(d) Whether the Company or Firm or Hindu Undivided Family on which the assessment was made has been or is being liquidated, wound up, dissolved, partitioned or being declared insolvent as the case may be.

7. In case there has been no income-tax assessment, whether returns submitted under sections 22 (1) or (2) and 18A(3) of the Indian Income Tax Act, and if so, the amount of income returned or tax paid for each of the five years mentioned in 6 (b) above.

8. The name and address of Branch(es) of the applicant.

I declare that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my information and belief.

Signature of the applicant or his authorised agent.

Date.....

(TO BE FILLED IN BY INCOME-TAX OFFICER)

In my opinion, the applicant mentioned above has been doing everything possible to pay the tax demands promptly and regularly and to facilitate the completion of the pending or outstanding proceedings.

Signature of the Income-tax Officer.

Circle/Ward/District.....

Date.....

Seal.....

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

New Delhi, the 3rd February, 1949

PUBLIC NOTICE

With reference to para. 6 of this Ministry's Public Notice, dated the 8th January 1949, regarding the production of Income-tax verification certificates by applicants for import and export licences with effect from the licensing period January—June 1949, it is notified for general information that the Government of India have decided that applications for (i) import licences for goods which are liberally licensed for imports from any source (including Capital Goods and Heavy Electrical Plant) and (ii) export licences for goods for export to hard currency areas will be taken into consideration and sanctioned, if otherwise eligible, irrespective of whether the applicant has lodged his income-tax verification certificates. This decision has been taken to facilitate maximum possible imports of the liberally licensed commodities and the maximum possible exports to hard currency areas.

G. R. KAMAT,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that so far as the ten per cent. reserved for newcomers is concerned, the Indian Oilseeds Committee suggested that this clause regarding income-tax should not be insisted upon?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I said before, I have not received the formal proceedings of the Oilseeds Committee, and their recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration when they are received.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know from the Honourable Minister in general terms why any exception is made in clause (b)?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The one point that I should like to mention is that so far as exports to hard currency areas are concerned, no such condition is insisted upon. That is the most important relaxation that we have made. Then there are others, *e.g.*, there is a relaxation in favour of refugees from Pakistan. Then in respect of licences for values not exceeding Rs. 5,000, no such condition need be complied with. There are other cases too. If my honourable friend would read the two notifications, he would see the different categories of exemptions.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know whether any exemption that has been made in the case of hard currency areas has proved unsatisfactory and those persons to whom permits were granted were not able to comply and committed default?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: So far as export to hard currency areas is concerned, the position has not improved appreciably in spite of the inducements that we have given to the trade. But, it is hoped that in the near future we will be able to find out the result of this relaxation.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether this clause is included in regard to import licences also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that even Newspapers are asked to furnish this information before quotas are granted?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes; it is very difficult to make an exception in the case of newspapers.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that quotas to newspapers are given on the basis of circulation and not on the basis of the Income-tax paid by the individual paper?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes; if there is any grievance on this score, I should like to look into it.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know if this clause is to be satisfied in the case of new-corners also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is expected to be normally satisfied by new-comers also. But, as I stated on a previous occasion, the mere non-payment of Income-tax is not a positive disqualification. If a party produces a certificate from the Income-tax authorities stating that no Income-tax is payable by him, then, that might be a sufficient compliance with this rule.

FACILITIES TO PRODUCERS FOR EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT

*1647. **Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered or are considering the grant of facilities for export of groundout to producers individually or to organizations of producers;

(b) whether Government are aware of the benefits that would accrue to the producers by gradual elimination of middlemen; and

(c) if so, whether Government will clearly enunciate their policy in this regard?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Government, would certainly look with favour upon attempts which producers of groundnut individually or organisations of such producers make for the direct marketing of their groundnut in overseas countries. Experience has, however, shown that producers as a class have not been able to establish the necessary overseas connections without which entry into the export trade is impossible, and they were able to qualify for only an insignificant share of the quota earmarked for newcomers which was licensed on the strength of orders from everseas buyers.

(b) and (c). So long as the necessity to control the export trade by the grant of licences continues, Government's objective would be to maintain as far as possible a pattern of trade which would have existed but for the control, and which is likely to survive after the control has ceased to exist. The experience of such commodities as are not subject to export control, including certain oils and oilseeds, shows that the export trade is, under a system of free competition largely if not wholly, carried on by merchants rather than producers. Government do not, therefore, consider it desirable in the over-all interests of the country's export trade to force the entry of any class of people into the particular trade at the expense of another. As I have said before, however, Government would look with favour upon any efforts which the producers make in this direction; and other things being equal, any applications which producers or organisations of producers make for export licences would continue to receive special and sympathetic consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not also the policy of Government to give every possible encouragement to the co-operative organisations of the producers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes. So far as the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, it is very difficult for us to give any positive lead in this matter. I think my honourable friend will have to look to the Ministry of Agriculture more than to the Ministry of Commerce for this.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Trade Commissioners be instructed to render such facilities as giving information in foreign countries and act as liaison officers in the case of genuine organisations of producers who want to export?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: At the present moment, the number of such organisations is so small that no occasion has arisen for sending any special instructions to that effect. But, I welcome my honourable friend's suggestion and we will certainly communicate it to our Trade Commissioners.

Construction of Houses from Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund

†**1648. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what amount has been allotted for construction of workers' houses under the Labourers' Welfare Fund?

(b) How much has been spent so far?

(c) How many houses have already been constructed under this scheme?

(d) How many houses are proposed to be constructed under the scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Out of a cess of 6 annas levied under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act on every ton of coal and coke despatched by rail from collieries in the Indian Dominion, one anna four pies are credited to the housing account of the Fund. The estimated annual receipts of the housing account is about Rs. 22 lakhs

(b) About 15·3 lakhs.

(c) I would invite the attention of the honourable member to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 785 put by Shri R. L. Malviya on the 1st March, 1949.

(d) 50,000.

Expenditure on Embassies, Publicity and Propaganda Abroad

†**1649. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the total sum spent by the Government of India on the Staff of the various Indian Embassies abroad during the year ended 31st March, 1949?

(b) What is the total sum spent on publicity and propaganda in foreign countries during the year ended 31st March, 1949?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The total sum spent during the last twelve months on Embassies is approximately Rs. 70,14,900.

(b) The total sum spent on publicity and propaganda during the last year is approximately Rs. 24,38,900. It is difficult to assess the effect of our publicity abroad but the publicity organisation has endeavoured to counteract mis-representation of India abroad and to put forward the Indian point of view.

Formation of Mutual Defence Pacts and Power Groups

***1650. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the formation of power groups and blocs entering into Mutual Defence Pacts such as the Atlantic or the Mediterranean Pacts; and

(b) if so, what India's position in regard to any such pact is?

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† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the recently published Atlantic Pact; they are not aware that any Mediterranean Pact has been or is in process of being concluded.

(b) The Government of India understand that the Atlantic Pact is in the nature of a regional arrangement within the frame-work of the United Nations Charter. India is far removed from the Atlantic region, and the Government of India is not affected by the Atlantic Pact.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Honourable the Prime Minister's attention been drawn to a statement of the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Ernest Bevin in Washington the other day when addressing the Press Corps there, emphasising the connection between the North Atlantic community and India and Asia through Britain, and if so whether there is any fear that India's association with the Commonwealth might even indirectly link her up with the Atlantic Pact?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I regret I have not seen that particular speech to which reference is made. But, so far as this House is concerned, I think there need be no fear or apprehension about our being indirectly linked with the Atlantic Pact because of something else.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that Lord Listowel, one of the four extraordinary Envoys recently sent by Britain to the four corners of the earth made a statement, on his way back, publicly mooting the idea of a Pacific Defence Pact?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Again, I am sorry I have not read that statement of Lord Listowel. But the fact remains that there is no such thing being discussed at all. Some people with a vivid imagination may talk about it; but in reality, there is no such thing so far as the Government of India is concerned.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will this House be consulted before any major decisions of policy are taken if at all by the Commonwealth Conference, or will this Assembly be confronted with a *fait accompli*?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How does this arise out of the Atlantic Pact?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has India taken any steps or does she propose to take any steps in the direction of promoting an Inter-Asian Pact for mutual aid within the frame-work of the United Nations Charter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is restricted to the Atlantic Pact.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It covers all Mutual Defence Pacts, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It covers the Atlantic Pact only.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was the Government of India informed by the British Government before or after they had concluded this Atlantic Pact?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is a system of information being circulated from time to time between the various Governments and so we have been kept informed of the various stages. I do not know what particular thing the honourable member is referring to. We do receive information of what is happening in foreign countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to this particular pact, keeping in mind the kind of informal contacts that are supposed to prevail between the various Dominions in this Commonwealth, was any specific effort made by the British Government to consult or ascertain the views of the Government of India with regard to this Atlantic Pact?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We were kept informed. It was not directly our concern. I remember, for instance, four or five days before the publication of the document, we were informed that that is going to be

published five or six days later, previously too, at various stages. It was not consultation. We were not in it at all. It is a question of sending information.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: As we are at present a member of the Commonwealth, and as some members of the Commonwealth are involved in the Atlantic Pact, are we also, as a member of the Commonwealth, not involved in the Atlantic Pact?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The honourable member is correct; we are not.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that Britain and Canada are parties to the Atlantic Pact, may I know if there is any unwritten pact or tradition or convention according to which member States of the Commonwealth or States which are associated with the Commonwealth are bound by obligations of mutual defence in the event of war or external aggression?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am a little surprised at the honourable member's question. These matters have been debated and publicly declared so many times. There is no such thing written or unwritten.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF ENQUIRY OF U.N.C.I.P.

*1651. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of refereuce and the scope of inquiry of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan;

(b) the nature of consultations that have so far taken place between the U.N.C.I.P. and the representatives of India and Pakistan; and

(c) what stage the settlement of the Kashmir problem has reached?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The honourable member's attention is invited to the relevant part of the Security Council's Resolution dated April 21, 1948, a copy of which is placed on the table.

(b) There have been oral discussions between representatives of the Government of India and the Commission, also correspondence. From time to time, I have kept the House informed of the result of these negotiations.

(c) As the House already knows, the Government of India have accepted the Commission's resolutions dated the 13th August 1948 and 5th January, 1949. The text of these two resolutions and of papers elucidating the Government of India's acceptance of them will be found in the Documents regarding Kashmir which I presented to the House on 3rd February 1949. Discussions regarding a truce agreement as envisaged in Part II of the Commission's resolution of 13th August, 1948 are still in progress. The Secretary General of the United Nations has, after the necessary consultations, nominated Admiral Chester Nimitz as Plebiscite Administrator.

Resolution on the India-Pakistan question submitted jointly by the Representatives of Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, adopted at the Two Hundred and Eighty-Sixth Meeting of the Security Council, 21 April 1948.

The Security Council,

Having considered the complaint of the Government of India concerning the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, having heard the representative of India in support of that complaint and the reply and counter complaints of the representative of Pakistan,

Being strongly of opinion that the early restoration of peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir is essential and that India and Pakistan should do their utmost to bring about a cessation of all fighting,

Noting with satisfaction that both India and Pakistan desire that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite,

Considering that the continuation of the dispute is likely to endanger international peace and security;

Reaffirms the Council's Resolution of January 17th,

Resolves that the membership of the Commission established by the Resolution of the Council of January 20th, 1948, shall be increased to five and shall include in addition to the membership mentioned in that Resolution, representative of —and—and that if the membership of the Commission has not been completed within ten days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution the President of the Council may designate such other Member or Members of the United Nations as are required to complete the membership of five,

Instructs the Commission to proceed at once to the Indian sub-continent and there place its good offices and mediation at the disposal of the Governments of India and Pakistan with a view to facilitating the taking of the necessary measures, both with respect to the restoration of peace and order and to the holding of a plebiscite by the two Governments, acting in co-operation with one another and with the Commission and further instructs the Commission to keep the Council informed of the action taken under the Resolution, and to this end,

Recommends to the Governments of India and Pakistan the following measures as those which in the opinion of the Council are appropriate to bring about a cessation of the fighting and to create proper conditions for a free and impartial plebiscite to decide whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir is to accede to India or Pakistan.

A. *Restoration of Peace and Order*

1. The Government of Pakistan should undertake to use its best endeavours:

(a) To secure the withdrawal from the State of Jammu and Kashmir of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the State for the purposes of fighting and to prevent any intrusion into the State of such elements and any furnishing of material aid to those fighting in the State

(b) To make known to all concerned that the measures indicated in this and the following paragraphs provide full freedom to all subjects of the State, regardless of creed, caste, or party, to express their views and to vote on the question of the accession of the State, and that therefore they should co-operate in the maintenance of peace and order.

2. The Government of India should:

(a) When it is established to the satisfaction of the Commission set up in accordance with the Council's Resolution of 20 January that the tribesmen are withdrawing and that arrangements for the cessation of the fighting have become effective, put into operation in consultation with the Commission a plan for withdrawing their own forces from Jammu and Kashmir and reducing them progressively to the minimum strength required for the support of the civil power in the maintenance of law and order,

(b) Make known that the withdrawal is taking place in stages and announce the completion of each stage;

(c) When the Indian forces shall have been reduced to the minimum strength mentioned in (a) above, arrange in consultation with the Commission for the stationing of the remaining forces to be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

(i) That the presence of troops should not afford any intimidation or appearance of intimidation to the inhabitants of the State,

(ii) That as small a number as possible should be retained in forward areas,

(iii) That any reserve of troops which may be included in the total strength should be located within their present Base area.

3. The Government of India should agree that until such time as the plebiscite administration referred to below finds it necessary to exercise the powers of direction and supervision over the State forces and police provided for in Paragraph 8 they will be held in areas to be agreed upon with the Plebiscite Administrator.

4. After the plan referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above has been put into operation, personnel recruited locally in each district should so far as possible be utilized for the re-establishment and maintenance of law and order with due regard to protection of minorities, subject to such additional requirements as may be specified by the Plebiscite Administration referred to in Paragraph 7.

5. If these local forces should be found to be inadequate, the Commission, subject to the agreement of both the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, should arrange for the use of such forces of either Dominion as it deems effective for the purpose of pacification.

B. Plebiscite

6. The Government of India should undertake to ensure that the Government of the State invite the major political groups to designate responsible representatives to share equitably and fully in the conduct of the administration at the Ministerial level, while the plebiscite is being prepared and carried out.

7. The Government of India should undertake that there will be established in Jammu and Kashmir a Plebiscite Administration to hold a Plebiscite as soon as possible on the question of the accession of the State to India or Pakistan.

8. The Government of India should undertake that there will be delegated by the State to the Plebiscite Administration such powers as the latter considers necessary for holding a fair and impartial plebiscite including, for that purpose only, the direction and supervision of the State forces and police.

9. The Government of India should at the request of the Plebiscite Administration make available from the Indian forces such assistance as the Plebiscite Administration may require for the performance of its functions.

10. (a) The Government of India should agree that a nominee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be appointed to be the Plebiscite Administrator.

(b) The Plebiscite Administrator, acting as an officer of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, should have authority to nominate his Assistants and other subordinates and to draft regulations governing the Plebiscite. Such nominees should be formally appointed and such draft regulations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The Government of India should undertake that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will appoint fully qualified persons nominated by the Plebiscite Administrator to act as special magistrates within the State judicial system to hear cases which in the opinion of the Plebiscite Administrator have a serious bearing on the preparation for and the conduct of a free and impartial plebiscite.

(d) The terms of service of the Administrator should form the subject of a separate negotiation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of India. The Administrator should fix the terms of service for his Assistants and subordinates.

(e) The Administrator should have the right to communicate direct with the Government of the State and with the Commission of the Security Council and, through the Commission with the Security Council, with the Governments of India and Pakistan and with their Representatives with the Commission. It would be his duty to bring to the notice of any or all of the foregoing (as he in his discretion may decide) any circumstances arising which may tend, in his opinion, to interfere with the freedom of the Plebiscite.

11. The Government of India should undertake to prevent and to give full support to the Administrator and his staff in preventing any threat, coercion or intimidation, bribery or other undue influence on the voters in the plebiscite, and the Government of India should publicly announce and should cause the Government of the State to announce this undertaking as an international obligation binding on all public authorities and officials in Jammu and Kashmir.

12. The Government of India should themselves and through the Government of the State declare and make known that all subjects of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of creed, caste or party, will be safe and free in expressing their views and in voting on the question of the accession of the State and that there will be freedom of the Press, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit.

13. The Government of India should use and should ensure that the Government of the State also use their best endeavours to effect the withdrawal from the State of all Indian nationals other than those who are normally resident therein or who on or since 15 August 1947 have entered it for a lawful purpose.

14. The Government of India should ensure that the Government of the State release all political prisoners and take all possible steps so that:

(a) all citizens of the State who have left it on account of disturbances are invited, and are free, to return to their homes and to exercise their rights as such citizens;

(b) there is no victimization;

(c) minorities in all parts of the State are accorded adequate protection.

15. The Commission of the Security Council should at the end of the plebiscite certify to the Council whether the plebiscite has or has not been really free and impartial.

C. General Provisions

16. The Governments of India and Pakistan should each be invited to nominate a Representative to be attached to the Commission for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its task.

17. The Commission should establish in Jammu and Kashmir such observers as it may require of any of the proceedings in pursuance of the measures indicated in the foregoing paragraphs.

18. The Security Council Commission should carry out the tasks assigned to it herein.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the liquidation of the so-called Azad Kashmir Government and the disbandment of the so-called Azad Kashmir forces were among the conditions of the New Year's Cease Fire Agreement which was entered into in accordance with the previous United Nations Resolution of August 13th?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The honourable member is getting a little mixed up with the Cease Fire and other things. So far as the Cease Fire was concerned, it was a pure and simple Cease Fire, but of course, behind that Cease Fire, there were other developments, certain resolutions which had been passed by the Security Council and certain resolutions by the United Nations Commission on Kashmir. In those arrangements were involved, according to us the disbandment and disarming of the forces in what is termed 'the Azad Kashmir territory'. As for the liquidation of the certain Azad Kashmir Government, the question did not arise, because we have never acknowledged the existence of any such thing.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the position, Sir, with regard to Pakistan troops on any part of Kashmir territory?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are simple facts given very clearly in the resolution itself.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Prime Minister's attention been drawn to the anti-Indian tilt in the B.B.C. broadcast last night on this issue?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have read something in the newspapers about it this morning.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Honourable the Prime Minister come across the news on the All-India Radio to the effect that we were delaying the settlement of the Kashmir affair with the hope that the United Nations Commission for Kashmir will decide that the plebiscite would not come and further that if the plebiscite is held, the Pakistan people and the Pakistan Government were confident that they will win the Plebiscite?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry, I have not been listening to the Radio, but apart from what has been said, I should like to make it perfectly clear that any such solution or suggestion made on behalf of any person is completely devoid of any foundation. We are bound by the declarations made by us, and by the commitments we have accepted. Those commitments are that a Plebiscite should be held under certain conditions and those conditions are stated with extreme accuracy and clarity in the resolutions and *aide memoires*. By that we stand and we do not stand by anything else.

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH INDIA HAS ENTERED INTO TREATIES, PACTS OR AGREEMENTS

*1852. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with whom India has entered into treaties of friendship, pacts of non-aggression, or agreements of trade and commerce; and

(b) with which other countries such treaties, pacts or agreements are under consideration?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). The Government of India have neither entered into nor are they considering entering into any pact of non-aggression. Regarding trade agreements and treaties of friendship and commerce, attention is invited to Question No. 414 by Pandit

Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava and the reply given to Parts (c) and (d) by the Commerce Minister on February 16th. I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the latest information on this subject.

STATEMENT

(a) (i) *Treaties of Friendship, etc.*—Switzerland.—A Treaty of Friendship and Establishment with Switzerland was signed on 14th August 1948.

(ii) *Agreements of Trade and Commerce.*—(1) Anglo-American Zone of Germany, (2) Switzerland, (3) Yugoslavia, (4) Czechoslovakia, (5) Pakistan, (6) Japan, (7) Afghanistan.

The Agreements with Nos. 3, 4 and 7 above are subject to ratification.

(b) (i) *Treaties of Friendship and Commerce under consideration.*—(1) Philippines, (2) United States of America, (3) Bhutan, (4) China, (5) Yemen, (6) Afghanistan, (7) Iran, (8) Czechoslovakia.

(ii) *Agreements of Trade and Commerce under consideration.*—(1) Italy, (2) France, (3) U. S. S. R., (4) Poland, (5) Sweden, (6) Finland, (7) Soviet Zone of Germany, (8) Hungary, (9) Belgium, (10) Austria, (11) Ceylon, (12) Egypt, (13) East Africa, (14) Iran, (15) Australia, (16) Tibet, (17) Iraq, (18) Siam.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the general world drift towards war, what are the reasons for not entering into pacts of non-aggression with other countries?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The reasons were discussed and very clearly stated by the Government in the various discussions that took place with regard to our foreign policy.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there any onerous obligations imposed upon us by any treaty of friendship; if so, what are they?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I cannot say. There is a certain treaty with Nepal by which we pay a certain amount. It all dipends on what the honourable member considers by the term 'onerous'.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How far has the draft treaty of friendship with the U.S.A., to which reference was made by the Honourable the Prime Minister in his reply to my honourable friend Seth Govind Das on the 11th February, 1949, progressed?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It is in course of negotiation. If my honourable friend will see the statement, which I have laid on the table, he will find the various particulars required by him.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there a similar draft treaty under active consideration of Government with the U.S.S.R.?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the unfortunate world split between two blocs led by the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. on either side, why is it that Government is considering a treaty of friendship with the U.S.A., and not also with the U.S.S.R.?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: In answer to a previous question some time ago, I had already indicated that there was a proposal and negotiations are going to begin with regard to a trade treaty with the U.S.S.R.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is different. What about a friendship treaty?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I may inform the honourable member that we are trying to enter into treaties of friendship with all countries and not only with U.S.S.R. and U.S.A.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any initiative taken at any time by the U.S.S.R. in regard to this?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No. With regard to trade: 'Yes'.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who took the initiative in the case of the proposed treaty with the U.S.A.?

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

IMMOVEABLE PROPERTIES SOLD AND REGISTERED AFTER KARACHI AGREEMENT

*1853. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether after the Karachi Agreement in January 1949 in the Inter-Dominion Conference any immoveable properties in India and Pakistan have been sold and registered; and, if so, how many and what is the total value thereof?

(b) Has any displaced person approached the Government of India for granting facilities to proceed to Pakistan to dispose of their properties, and, if so, with what result?

(c) Is it a fact that those who went to Pakistan in pursuance of the Karachi Agreement were not allowed to sell or register the properties?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Three exchanges and one sale have so far been reported. The value of the property affected is reported to be Rupees One Lakh and Rs. 5,000 respectively. In addition the Custodians of Evacuees Property Delhi, East Punjab and U. P. have confirmed a number of transactions which were entered into long before the Karachi Agreement.

(b) No.

(c) Presumably the honourable member is referring to the registration of sales or exchanges at Karachi. If so, it may be stated that the registration of sales and exchanges could not take place in Karachi because the office of the Custodian was not functioning there properly. As soon as this came to notice the matter was taken up at a meeting of the Inter-Dominion Commission and the Pakistan Members of the Commission promised to put things right.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was this question discussed this week before the Inter-Dominion Conference. If so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The honourable member must have read in the papers that this question was not discussed at this Conference, and it is proposed to be discussed at another meeting to be held towards the end of this month.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the reason for delaying an important matter like this? It was discussed both in Delhi and Karachi. May I ask why it has been postponed to the end of this month?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The reason was that the Honourable Minister in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation in Pakistan, Mr. Shahbuddin, could not come because of some previous engagement.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that after the Karachi Conference the Pakistan Government issued a Press Note that no person will be allowed to remain in Pakistan for selling his property after 15 days and whether Government drew attention in this recent Conference which took place as to why they violated the agreement that was arrived at Karachi, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact the honourable member must have read in the papers that this question was taken up by the Inter-Dominion Conference which met on the 12th March 1949 and the Pakistan representatives have agreed that in regard to Karachi, the period has been extended to one month.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know why this period has been extended to one month? That condition did not exist when the Karachi Agreement was entered into.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The reason advanced by Karachi for not extending the period for Karachi was that there was not sufficient accommodation available in Karachi.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Was any protest raised by our Government against changing of this agreement, which was originally agreed upon by both countries?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Not only was a protest made, but the question was reconsidered and as a result of that, this notification has been modified.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the attention of the Pakistan Government been invited to the general complaint that propaganda is carried on in Pakistan Press particularly in the West Punjab against the selling of evacuees property?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With what result?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They also have drawn our attention to certain statements made by certain leaders here which are just more or less on the same lines as they have written against the sale of Muslim property.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, Sir, if in this week's Conference any result has been achieved regarding the pensions of Pakistan evacuees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: With what result?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It has been agreed that those persons whose pension papers had been transferred up to the 31st December 1947, will be paid by the Dominion to which they have come and as regards others, the liability will be of the other dominion.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable the Leader of the House raised an important matter about the Questions and you told Mr. Das to see you in your chamber. My submission is that, as the question has been raised on the floor of the House, it may be answered and the Members' difficulties taken note of by the Leader of the House.

Mr. Speaker: That can be done in my Chamber. Such of the Members as want to make any suggestion are welcome to discuss the matter with me. Let us proceed with the business of the House as the first step in co-operation.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FINALISATION OF PRELIMINARY ELECTORAL ROLLS

*1854. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state by which date the preliminary electoral rolls are likely to be finalised in various parts of the country?

(b) What time is likely to be taken in the printing of the final electoral rolls and is it proposed to print them in India or outside?

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): (a) and (b). The preliminary electoral rolls under the new Constitution are expected to be finalised and printed by the end of 1949. It is proposed to print them all in India.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH CANADA

*1655. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the trade between India and Canada (imports and exports) has increased or decreased since India's independence, with reasons in either case?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Both imports and exports have decreased. The decrease can be ascribed to:

(1) Restriction of imports into India from dollar areas and Canada's policy of increasing exports to the U.S.A. and other countries in North America.

(2) Imports restrictions imposed by Canada during the period from November 1947 to December 1948 necessitated by her foreign exchange difficulties.

(3) Diversion of a portion of Canada's trade with pre-partition India to the areas now included in Pakistan.

NATURALISATION AND IMMIGRATION LAWS FOR INDIANS IN U.S.A.

*1656. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the latest law passed by the United States Congress affecting the rights of Indians with regard to (i) naturalisation in, and (ii) immigration into, the United States of America;

(b) the number of Indians in the United States of America at the time when the new law was passed;

(c) the number of such resident Indians who were naturalised before and after the new law was passed;

(d) the number of Indians who were (i) admitted into and (ii) naturalised in the United States of America since the law was passed;

(e) whether and in what respects Indians who were already in the United States of America at the time of the passing of the law have a better claim to naturalisation than new entrants; and

(f) whether a new Bill has been introduced in the Congress to eliminate racial discriminations in the immigration and naturalisation laws of the United States of America?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) The latest law on the subject is Public Law 483, approved by the 79th Congress on July 2, 1946.

(b) According to the last official Census of 1940, the number of permanent residents descended from races indigenous to India was 2,405. Further official figures have not yet been compiled.

(c) The total number of Indians naturalised before passage of the law was 48. This figure includes persons of Indian descent outside India and Europeans domiciled in India at the time they immigrated. The total number of Indians naturalised since passage of the law up to 30th June 1948 was 47. Figures after 1st July 1948 have not yet been compiled.

(d) The number of persons of Indian descent and debitable to Indian quota admitted between the 1st July 1947 and the 30th June 1948 is 236. Figures after the 1st July 1948 have not yet been compiled. Figures of naturalisation granted to Indians admitted after the passage of law have not been compiled as such but the total number naturalised up to 30th June 1948 is 47, as stated in (c) above.

(e) There is no difference in regard to their respective rights but legally settled residents may count their period of stay towards the minimum residential requirement of five years for the submission of petitions declaring their intention to become United States citizens.

(f) Yes; that Bill does not appear to affect persons of Indian descent materially.

REDUCTION IN CURRENCY EXCHANGE TO INDIANS RETURNING FROM INDO-CHINA

*1657. **Shri V. N. Pillai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have reduced the sum of Rs. 300, usually given in exchange for local currency in Indo-China for travel expenses to Indians who return to India; to Rs. 150 and, if so, why?

(b) In view of the great difficulty experieuced by Indians due to want of adequate funds for travel expenses, what action do Government propose to take?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). The sum which was originally Rs. 250 (not Rs. 300)—has been reduced for Rs. 150 which is now considered adequate.

INCORPORATION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA IN UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

*1658. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of South Africa intends to take action to incorporate or otherwise assimilate South West Africa in the Union of South Africa?

(b) Has such an action the approval of the Government of India and of the United Nations?

(c) If not, what action, if any, have the Government of India taken to prevent the action of the South African Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (c). The Government of the Union of South Africa have introduced a Bill in their Parliament with a view to giving representation to South West, Africa in the Union Parliament. The spokesmen of the Union Government have repeatedly averred that the proposed arrangement for the closer union of South West Africa with the Union does not mean incorporation. The position of South West Africa was considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946, 1947 and 1948 and on each occasion the General Assembly recommended that South West Africa be placed under a trusteeship system. The Indian Delegation at the United Nations General Assembly supported this recommendation. The Government of India are strongly of opinion that this recommendation of the United Nations General Assembly should be given effect to, and their representatives will press for this in the General Assembly whenever this question is considered there. There is no other action that they can take by themselves in this matter.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL, U.S.A. AND U.K. *RE* AIR BASE IN NEPAL

*1659. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations are going on between Nepal and the Governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom for the establishment of an air base in Nepal in return for substantial financial aid and technical assistance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the United States of America is negotiating for the development of Nepal's vast mineral resources and hydro-electric potentialities; and

(c) whether the United States of America has offered assistance to Nepal for developing Nepal's land communications with India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (c). The Government of India have no knowledge of any such negotiations.

PERMITS FOR ENTRY OF INDIANS FROM FRENCH INDIA

*1660. **Shri P. Kunhiraman:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to introduce permit system from the 1st April, 1949 for the entry of French Indians into India;

(b) if so, for what reasons; and

(c) whether it applies to all French settlements in India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (c). A copy of a press note issued on the subject on the 28th March 1949, relating to travel between India and Pondicherry and Karikal, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The system has been introduced for security reasons and also to check smuggling that may follow the termination of the Customs Union Agreement with effect from 1st April 1949.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Consequent on the termination of the Customs Union Agreement with the French Settlements in India from the first April, 1949, it has been decided to cancel from that date the exemption granted under the Indian Passport Rules, 1921, to persons domiciled in India, proceeding from the French Establishments of Pondicherry and Karikal and persons domiciled in foreign possessions in India proceeding to India from those Establishments. Such persons will therefore, be subject to the provisions of the Indian Passport Rules, 1921 with effect from the first April, 1949 and will have to obtain a travel document validated by the competent authority for entry into India or the French Establishments of Pondicherry and Karikal, as the case may be. To avoid inconvenience and expense, a special type of identity document has been prescribed for which a fee of only Re. 1 will be charged.

2. The above action has been decided upon to facilitate the checking and detection of smuggling and other evasions of import and export control regulations.

New Delhi, the 28th March, 1949.

TRANSFER OF PENSION DOCUMENTS FROM PAKISTAN

*1661. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to continue the pensions of those Central Government pensioners, who got their pension documents transferred from Pakistan to India before 15th August 1947 and to restrict the pensions of those Central Government pensioners whose documents were transferred after the 15th August, 1947?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the grounds for the adoption of such a policy?

(c) Will the pensioners who applied for the transfer of their pensions before 15th August, 1947, but got their pensions transferred after that date, be affected by such orders?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Finance. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of Questions for the 6th April 1949 when the Honourable Minister of Finance will answer it.

CAMPS FOR REFUGEES IN UNITED STATES OF RAJASTHAN

*1662. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many displaced persons

from Pakistan are residing in each of the various camps in the United States of Rajasthan?

(b) How many of them are supplied with free ration and how many purchase their own?

(c) What is the arrangement for rehabilitating them in various vocations?

(d) What is the daily expenditure incurred by Government on each of these camps?

(e) What is the total number of school-going children in these camps?

(f) Have facilities been provided for these children to attend schools and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b), (e) and (f). The information is not available and has been called for.

(c) The arrangements are:

(i) Grant of land for cultivation.

(ii) Provision of residential accommodation.

(iii) Construction of shops.

(iv) Grant of loans for providing gainful occupations.

(v) Vocational and Technical training for about 1,000 displaced persons.

STATEMENT

Number of displaced persons from Pakistan in each of the various Camps in United States of Rajasthan and Daily Expenditure thereon.

Name of the Camp	Population	Daily expenditure
		Rs.
Udaipur	4,128	1,737
Nathdwara	728	385
Kankroli	647	282
Chitorgarh	1,660	675
Bhilwara	1,864	690
Gulab Pura	542	217
Kotah	6,000	2,290
Bundi	233	95
Ghoti Sadri	208	91
Destitute Home	50	100
Total	15,855	

TRAINING IN COST ACCOUNTANCY IN U.K. AND U.S.A.

*1663. **Shri G. S. Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is proposed to encourage training of qualified Indians in higher Cost Accountancy in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes Sir. The Government of India announced as far back as 1946, that with a view to encouraging training of qualified Indians in higher Cost Accountancy in U.K. and also in U.S.A., they would do their best to secure for them admission to appropriate firms or institutions in these countries through their representatives stationed in these countries and also grant such priority passage and exchange facilities as may be necessary and feasible, and this policy continues to be observed.

RESEARCH IN MANUFACTURE OF RADIO VALVES

*1664. **Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any research is being conducted under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in radio valves for developing a type more suitable for Indian conditions?

(b) If so, do the Scientists employed in the work have foreign scientific and technical training?

(c) If such research workers have no foreign training, is it in the contemplation of Government to give them or some of them advance scientific and technical training in countries like the United States of America or the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. A research scheme on investigations on manufacture of radio valves in India is being financed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) The scheme is being worked under one of the eminent physicists of India, Dr. S. K. Mitra, Ghosh, Professor of Physice, University of Calcutta. Dr. Mitra was educated in England and has since been abroad on several occasions. The reaearch workers working with him have not had any foreign training.

(c) No. Not at this stage.

EXPORT OF LIMESTONE FROM ASSAM FOR MANUFACTURE OF CEMENT IN EASTERN PAKISTAN

*1665. **Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the names of places where there are limestone quarries in Assam?

(b) Is it a fact that limestone for the Assam-Bengal Cement Company's factory at Chhattack, East Pakistan, is taken from the quarries in the Khasi Hills in Assam?

(c) If so, is there any agreement between the two Dominions regarding the export of a specified percentage of the quantity of cement produced in the factory to Assam or any other part of the Indian Dominion?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) As permits for limestone quarries are granted by the Provincial Government, the information asked for is not available with the Government of India.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative so far as I am aware.

(c) Not to my knowledge.

PETROLEUM IN TRIPURA STATE

*1666. **Shri G. S. Guha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether any petroleum mine has been discovered in the Tripura State?

(b) If so, when is the work of boring likely to commence?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) There are indications of the existence of petroleum in Tripura State. But no actual mine has yet been sunk.

(b) This point is under consideration.

BUSINESS OF ALLIANZ UND STUTTGARTER LIFE INSURANCE BANK LTD., IN INDIA

*1667. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India in the year 1939 undertook to maintain the current business of The Alliauz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank Limited and have since then been collecting the premiums of the existing policies;

(b) whether before that Government had satisfied themselves that the assets of the Company in India were sufficient to meet the claims of the policies;

(c) whether Government directly or indirectly gave any assurance that the normal policy conditions would be given effect to;

(d) when valuation was made and what the recommendation of the Actuary was;

(e) what led Government to impose a provisional cut of 20 per cent. on all claims;

(f) whether Government now propose to hand over the company to some other company on the basis of 20 per cent. cut;

(g) whether Government have got any proposal from the Committee of Policy-holders to run the company as a mutual company; and

(h) whether Government propose to consider this proposal before deciding to hand over the company to any other company on the basis of 20 per cent. cut?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) On the outbreak of the war in 1939 with a view to safeguarding the interests of the policyholders of the 'Allianz', the Government authorized Messrs. A. F. Ferguson and Company, Chartered Accountants, to carry on the existing business of the company under the Government's superintendence, direction and control.

(b) The exact financial position could not be ascertained without making an actuarial valuation of the company. The Government, however, satisfied itself by a rough estimate that there were sufficient assets of the Company in the country to justify the expectation that generally speaking claims could be met as they arose.

(c) No such undertaking was given.

(d) The valuation was made as at 30th September 1940. The actuary recommended a cut of 10 per cent. on all policy payments.

(e) In order to provide adequate margin of safety for factors not specifically provided for by the actuary, a cut of 20 per cent. on all policy benefits was imposed by the Government.

(f) The question of handing over the business of the company to some sound insurer if the policy holders will benefit thereby, is under consideration of Government. The restoration of the 20 per cent. cut in policy benefits, either partly or wholly, will depend on the results of the next acturial valuation to be undertaken in the near future.

(g) A proposal to run the Company as a mutual company was received from the so-called Policyholders' Committee.

(h) The proposal will be considered before Government take a final decision to hand over the business to some other insurer.

STATUTORY BODIES ON WHICH LEGISLATURE IS REPRESENTED

*1668. **Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House the names of all the Statutory Bodies like University Bodies, Scientific Institutes, Advisory Boards, Standing Committees attached to various Ministries and other bodies to which the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) elects its representatives since

15th August, 1947 together with the names of the present representatives and the period for which they will serve there?

(b) What is the percentage of attendance of these members on these various bodies since 15th August, 1947?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The requisite information is given on pages 29—88 of the printed Brochure published by the Office of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) entitled "Committees of the Central Legislature and other bodies on which the Central Legislature is represented". Copies of this brochure are available in that office.

(b) A statement showing the attendance of members on the various Standing Committees is laid on the table.

STATEMENT

Ministry	Date	Names of members attending	Percentage of attendance
1	2	3	4
Agriculture	12.4.1948	1. Ch. Ranbir Singh 2. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh 3. Shri Ramnarayan Singh 4. Shri Upendra Nath Barman 5. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi 6. Shri Ram Sahai 7. Syed Abdur Rouf	70%
	26.7.1948 to 30.7.1948	1. Ch. Ranbir Singh 2. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh 3. Shri Ramnarayan Singh 4. Shri Upendra Nath Barman 5. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi 6. Shri Ram Sahai 7. Shri Damodar Swarup Seth	76%
	4-2-1949 and 5.2.1949	1. Ch. Ranbir Singh 2. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh 3. Shri Ramnarayan Singh 4. Shri Upendra Nath Barman 5. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi 6. Shri Ram Sahai	60%
	10.3.1949	1. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi 2. Shri Upendra Nath Barman 3. Shri Ramnarayan Singh 4. Ch. Ranbir Singh 5. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh	80%
	18.3.1949	1. Shri Upendra Nath Barman 2. Shri Ramnarayan Singh 3. Ch. Ranbir Singh 4. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh 5. Sardar Jogindra Singh	60%
Commerce	4.4.1948	1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Sir Padampat Singhania 3. Sri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 4. Sri Satyanarayana Sinha 5. Sri Bhawanji Arjan Khimji	50%
	21.5.1948	1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Sir Padampat Singhania 3. Sri N. Madhava Rau 4. Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala 5. Shri B. A. Khimji 6. Sri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai 7. Sri U. Srinivasa Mallayya	76%

1	2	3	4
Commerce—*Contd.*	5-8-1948	1. Dr. B.Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Sri Satyanarayana Sinha 3. Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar 4. Sri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 5. Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai	50%
	29-1-1949	1. The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 2. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya	20%
	5-2-1949	1. The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 2. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 3. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 4. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 5. Shri B.A. Khimji 6. Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka	60%
	19-2-1949	1. Shri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar 2. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 3. Shri M. C. Veerabahu Pillai	30%
Communication.	14-2-1948	1. Raja Sardar Singhji Bhadur of Khetri 2. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 3. Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya 4. Kazi Syed Karimuddin	40%
	30-3-1948	1. Raja Sardar Singhji Bahadur of Khetri 2. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 3. Shri P. Kunhiraman 4. Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya 5. Kazi Syed Karimuddin	50%
	17-7-1948	1. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 2. Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava 3. Shri Shamsher Jang 4. Kazi Syed Karimuddin	40%
	14-8-1948	1. Shri Hiramat Singh K. Maheshwari 2. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava 3. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 4. Lala Achint Ram 5. Kazi Syed Karimuddin 6. Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya 7. Shri P. Kunhiraman	70%
	12-1-1949	1. Shri Himmat Singh K. Maheswari 2. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 3. Shri P. Kunhiraman 4. Shri K. Hanumanthaiya 5. Lala Achint Ram 6. Shri Mahavir Tyagi	60%
	19-2-1949	1. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 2. Shri Mihirlal Chattopadhyaya 3. Shri P. Kunhiraman 4. Lala Achint Ram 5. Shri Mahavir Tyagi 6. Shri K. Hanumanthaiya	60%
Defence	25-6-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Shri C. M. Poonacha 3. Shri H. V. Kamath 4. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 5. Shri S. K. Patil 6. Dr. B. V. Keskar	60%

1	2	3	4
Defence—*Contd.*	12-8-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Sardar Jogindra Singh 3. Shri Mohan lal Gautam 4. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 5. Shri H.V. Kamath 6. Shri C.M. Poonacha 7. Mr. Hasain Imam 8. Dr. B. V. Keskar 9. Shri S. K. Patil	60%
	2-11-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Mr. Hasain Imam 3. Sardar Jogindra Singh 4. Pandit Tharkur Das Bhargava 5. Shri H.V. Kamath 6. Shri C. M. Poonacha	60%
	13-11-1948	1. Pndit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Sardar Jogindra Singh 3. Shri Mohanlal Gautam 4. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 5. Shri H.V. Kamath 6. Shri C. M. Poonacha 7. Shri Gopikrishna Vijaivargiya	70%
	22-11-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Sardar Jogindra Singh 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Shri H. V. Kamath 5. Shri C. M. Poonacha 6. Mr. Hasain Imam	60%
	18-2-1949	1. Pandit Thakar Das Bhargava 2. Shri H. V. Kamath 3. Shri Mohanlal Gautam 4. Shri C. M. Poonacha 5. Shri G.K. Vijaivargiya	56%
	19-2-1949	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 3. Shri H. V. Kamath 4. Shri Mohanlal Gautam 5. Shri C. M. Poonacha 6. Shri G. K. Vijaivargiya	67%
	22-2-1949	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 3. Shri H. V. Kamath 4. Mr. Hasain Imam 5. Shri C. M. Poonacha 6. Shri G. K. Vijaivargiya	67%
Education	April, 1948	1. Pandit Govind Malaviya 2. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee 3. Shrimati Ammu Swaminathan 4. Professor Yashwant Rai 5. Prof. K. T. Shah 6. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao 7. Shri T. Channiah	70%
	August, 1948	1. Pandit Govind Malaviya 2. Prof. K. T. Shah 3. Shrimati Sucheta Kriplani 4. Shrimati Ammu Swaminathan 5. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee 6. Prof. Yashwant Rai 7. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao 8. Shri T. Channiah	80%

1	2	3	4
External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations	12-8-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Seth Govind Das 3. Shri B. Shiva Rao 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Prof. N. G. Ranga 6. Shri H. V. Kamath 7. Maharaja Shri Kameshwara Singh 8. Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao 9. Shri Thirumala Rao	80%
	21-8-1948	1. Pt. Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Seth Govind Das 3. Shri B. Shiva Rao 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Prof. N. G. Ranga 6. Shri H. V. Kamath 7. Maharaja Shri Kameshwara Singh 8. Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao 9. Shri Thirumala Rao	80%
	2-9-1948	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Seth Govind Das 3. Prof. N. G. Ranga 4. Shri H.V. Kamath 5. Begum Aizaz Rasul 6. Maharaja Shri Kameshwara Singh 7. Shri Thirumala Rao 8. Shri V. Nadimuthu Pillai 9. Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao	90%
	10-2-1949	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Shri H. V. Kamath 3. Prof. N. G. Ranga 4. Seth Govind Das 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao 7. Begum Aizaz Rasul	70%
	4-3-1949	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Shri H. V. Kamath 3. Professor N. G. Ranga 4. Seth Govind Das 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao 7. Shri Thirumala Rao 8. Maharaja Shri Kameshwara Singh	80%
	16-3-1949	1. Seth Govind Das 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Shri B. Shiva Rao 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri H. V. Kamath 6. Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao	60%
	19-3-1949	1. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru 2. Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao 3. Shri V. Nadimuthu Pillai 4. Shri B. Shiva Rao 5. Prof. N. G. Ranga 6. Begum Aizaz Rasul 7. Shri H. V. Kamath 8. Seth Govind Das 9. Maharaja Shri Kameshwara Singh	90%
Finance	12-8-1948	1. Pandit Govind Malviya 2. Shri Satish Chandra Samanta 3. Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharti 4. Saiyid Jafar Imam 6. Shri B.K. Sidhva	50%

1	2	3	4
Food—*Contd.*	18-8-1948	1. Pandit Govind Malviya 2. Shri Satish Chandra Samanta 3. Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharti 4. Saiyid Jafar Imam 6. Shri R.K. Sidhva	50%
	20-1-1949	1. Pandit Govind Malviya 2. Shri R.K. Sidhva 3. Shri Nand Lal 4. Satish Chandra Samanta 5. Saiyid Jafar Imam	5%
Health	8-8-1948	Four members attended. No record of names was kept	40%
	6-9-1948	1 Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan 2. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee 3. Dr. V. Subramaniam 4. Shri Sunder Lal 5. Babu Ramnarayan Singh	50%
	5-12-1948	1. Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan 2. Babu Ramnarayan Singh 3. Shri V. B. Vaidya 4. Dr. V. Subramaniam 5. Shri Sunder Lal	50%
	5-2-1949	1. Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan 2. Dr. P. K. Sen 3. Dr. H. C. Mookerjee 4. Babu Ramnarayan Singh 5. Shri V. B. Vaidya 6. Dr. V. Subramaniam	60%
	19-3-1949	1. Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan 2. Mrs. Kamala Chaudhri 3. Dr. P. K. Sen 4. Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha 5. Shri V. B. Vaidya 6. Dr. V. Subramaniam 7. Shri Sunder Lal	70%
Home Affairs	21-8-1948	1. Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi 2. Shri Balkrishna Sharma 3. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta 4. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh 5. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 6. Shri S. K. Patil 7. Shri Jaimaraian Vyas 8. Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi	60%
	12-2-1949	1. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta 2. Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi 3. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir	30%
Industry and Supply	3-4-1948	1. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 2. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 3. Shri Ramnath Goenka 4. Shri C. Subramaniam 5. Shri B. L. Sondhi 6. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 7. Begum Aizaz Rasul	70%

1	2	3	4
Industry and Supply—*Contd.*	16-8-1948	1. Shri A. B. Latthe. 2. Shri B. L. Sondhi. 3. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Prof. N. C. Laskar	50%
	19-8-1948	1. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 2. Prof. N. C. Laskar 3. Shri B. L. Sondhi. 4. Shri Ramnath Goenka 5. Begum Aizaz Rasul	50%
	21-8-1948	1. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 2. Prof. N. C. Laskar 3. Shri B. L. Sondhi. 4. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 5. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 6. Begum Aizaz Rasul	60%
	24-8-1948	1. Shri B. L. Sondhi. 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 4. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 5. Prof. N. C. Laskar	50%
	30-8-1948	1. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 2. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 3. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 4. Prof. N. C. Laskar 5. Shri Ramnath Goenka 6. Begum Aizaz Rasul	50%
	30-12-1948	1. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 2. B. L. Sondhi 3. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Prof. N. C. Laskar	50%
	14-2-1949	1. Shri Ramnath Goenka 2. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 3. Shri B. L. Sondhi 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 6. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 7. Prof. N. C. Laskar	70%
	15-2-1949	1. Shri Ramnath Goenka 2. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 3. Shri Bikramdal Sondhi 4. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 5. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 6. Prof. N. C. Laskar 7. Shri C. Subramaniam	70%
	16-2-1949	1. Shri Bikramdal Sondhi 2. Shri Rmnath Goenka 3. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 4. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 5. Shri C. Subramaniam 6. Prof. N. C. Laskar 7. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar	70%
	4-3-1949	1. Shri Ramnath Goenka 2. Shri C. Subramaniam 3. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallyya 4. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 5. Shri Bikramlal Sondhi	80%

1	2	3	4
Industry and Supply—*Contd.*	18-3-1949	1. Shri Bikramlal Sondhi 2. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 3. Shri C. Subramaniam 4. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 5. Begum Aizaz Rasul 6. Prof. N. C. Laskar 7. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar	70%
	22-3-1949	1. Shri Ramnath Goenka 2. Shri Bikramlal Sondhi 3. Begum Aizaz Rasul 4. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar 5. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya 6. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 7. Prof. N. C. Laskar	70%
Information and Broadcasting	7.4.1948	1. Shri A. C. Guha 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai 4. Dr. Dharam Parkash 5. Shri Ram Sahai 6. Shri Sri Narain Mahtha 7. Pt. Balkrishna Sharma	70%
	29.8.1948	1. Shri A. C. Guha 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai 4. Dr. Dharam Parkash 5. Shri Ram Sahai 6. Shri Sri Narain Mahtha 7. Pt. Balkrishna Sharma 8. Mr. Abdul Kadar Mohammad Sheikh	80%
	25-2-1949	1. Shri A. C. Guha 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai 4. Dr. Dharam Parkash 5. Shri Ram Sahai 6. Shri Sri Narain Mahtha 7. Pt. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava	70%
	1.3.1949	1. Shri A. C. Guha 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai 4. Dr. Dharam Parkash 5. Shri Ram Sahai 6. Shri Sri Narain Mahtha 7. Pt. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava	70%
Labour	5-4-1948	1. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao 2. Shri C. Subramaniam 3. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt 4. Shrimati Renuka Ray 5. Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena	60%
	10.8.1948	1. Shri V. C. Kesava Rao 2. Shri Khandubhai K. Desai 3. Shrimati Renuka Ray 4. Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya 5. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt 6. Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena	60%
	5-3-1949	1. Shri Khandubhai K. Desai 2. Shrimati Renuka Ray 3. Shri G. D. Bhatt 4. Shri C. Subramaniam 5. Shri Hariharnath Shastri	60%

1	2	3	4
Law	23-7-1948	1. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand 2. Dr. P. K. Sen 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai	60%
	4-2-1949	1. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand 2. Dr. P. K. Sen 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai	60%
	22-3-1949	1. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand 2. Dr. P. K. Sen 3. Shrimati G. Durgabai	60%
Relief and Rehabilitation	3-5-1948	1. Shri Khurshed Lal 2. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 3. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena 4. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 5. Shri Basanta Kumar Das 6. Ch. Ranbir Singh	60%
	1-5-1948	1. Shri Khurshed Lal 2. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 3. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena 4. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 5. Shri Basanta Kumar Das 6. Ch. Ranbir Singh	60%
	31-8-1948	1. Shri Basanta Kumar Das 2. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 3. Ch. Ranbir Singh 4. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 5. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena 6. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand	60%
	1-9-1948	1. Shri Basanta Kumar Das 2. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 3. Ch. Ranbir Singh 4. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 5. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena 6. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand	60%
	23-12-1948	1. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand 2. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir 3. S. Bhopindra Singh Man 4. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 5. S. Ranbir Singh 6. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	60%
	10-2-1949	1. Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand 2. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani 3. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 4. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	40%
States	31-3-1948	1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 3. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh	30%
	6-9-1948	1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Shri Balwant Rai G. Mehta 3. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 4. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh 5. Shri V. S. Sarwate 6. Mr. Hussain Imam	60%
	3-1-1949	1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya 2. Pandit Hiralal Shastri 3. Shri Balwant Rai G. Mehta 4. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad 5. Sir V. T. Krishnamachari	50%

1	2	3	4
Transport (other than Roads)	17-8-1948	1. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta 2. Shri O. V. Alagesan 3. Shri K. Santhanam	30%
	5-2-1949	1. Shri B. N. Munavalli 2. Shri P. Kunhiraman 3. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta 4. Shri K. Santhanam	40%
	9-3-1949	1. Shri P. Kunhiraman 2. Shri Brijlal Nandlal Biyani 3. Shri K. Santhanam	30%
Works, Mines and Power	3-4-1948	1. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt 2. Shri B. Das 3. Shri Kanayalal Nanubhai Desai 4. Shri Sri Narain Mahta 5. Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar	50%
	24-7-1948	1. Shri B. Das 2. Shri O. V. Alagesan 3. Shri Jaipal Singh 4. Shri Kanayalal Nanubhai Desai 5. Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar 6. Mr. Tajamul Hussain 7. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	70%
	11-8-1948	1. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt 2. Shri B. Das 3. Shri O. V. Alagesan 4. Shri Jaipal Singh 5. Shri Kanayalal Nanubhai Desai 6. Shri Sri Narain Mahta 7. Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar 8. Mr. Tajamul Hussain 9. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	90%
	5-12-1948	1. Shri B. Das 2. Shri O. V. Alagesan 3. Shri Jaipal Singh 4. Shri Kanayalal Nanubhai Desai 5. Shri Sri Narain Mahta 6. Shri Suresh Chandra Majumdar 7. Mr. Tajamul Hussain 8. Shri B. K. Das 9. Mr. E. John Phillipose	90%
	11-2-1949	1. Shri B. Das 2. Shri O. V. Alagesan 3. Shri Jaipal Singh 4. Mr. Tajamul Hussain 5. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	50%
	27-2-1949	1. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhutt 2. Shri B. Das 3. Shri O. V. Alagesan 4. Shri Jaipal Singh 5. Shri Kanayalal Nanubhai Desai 6. Mr. Tajamul Hussain 7. Shri Basanta Kumar Das	70%

1	2	3	4
Standing Finance Committee	7-5-1948	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 3. Shri B. Shiva Rao 4. Shrimati Renuka Ray 5. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 6. Prof. K. T. Shah 7. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari 8. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 9. Shri Biswanath Das 10. Haji Seth Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth 11. Shri Khurshed Lal	89%
	21-5-1948	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shrimati Renuka Ray 7. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 8. Shri B. L. Sondhi 9. Prof. K. T. Shah 10. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari 11. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 12. Shri Biswanath Das 13. Shri Khurshed Lal	95%
	14-8-1948	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 7. Shri B. L. Sondhi 8. Prof. K. T. Shah 9. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari 10. Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar 11. Shri Biswanath Das 12. Shri Khurshed Lal	92%
	7-1-1949	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shrimati Renuka Ray 7. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 8. Shri Bikram Lal Sondhi 9. Prof. K. T. Shah 10. Shri M. A. Ayyangar 11. Shri Biswanath Das 12. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala	91%
	6-1-1949	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shrimati Renuka Ray 7. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 8. Shri Bikram Lal Sondhi 9. Prof. K. T. Shah 10. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari 11. Shri Biswanath Das 12. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala	92%

1	2	3	4
Standing Finance Committee—*contd.*	12-2-1949	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Prof. N. G. Ranga 3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 4. Begum Aizaz Rasul 5. Shri B. Shiva Rao 6. Shrimati Renuka Ray 7. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 8. Shri Bikram Lal Sondhi 9. Prof. K. T. Shah 10. Shri T. T. Krishnamachari 11. Shri M. A. Ayyangar 12. Shri Biswanath Das 13. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala	100%
	12-3-1949	1. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose 2. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava 3. Shri B. Shiva Rao 4. Shrimati Renuka Ray 5. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallaya 6. Shri Bikram Lal Sondhi 7. Prof. K. T. Shah 8. Shri Biswanath Das 9. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala	54%
Ministry of Transport (Roads).	16-12-47	1. Dr. V. Subramaniam 2. Shri S. Nijalingappa 3. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena 4. Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala 5. Prof. N. C. Laskar 6. Shri C. M. Poonacha 7. Shri G. S. Guha 8. Shri B. N. Munavalli	67%
	25-2-1948	1. Dr. V. Subramaniam 2. Shri S. Nijalingappa 3. Srijut Robini Kumar Chaudhuri 4. Shri C. M. Poonacha 5. Shri B. N. Mucavalli	42%
	6-12-1948	1. Dr. V. Subramaniam 2. Shri S. Nijalingappa 3. Shri Yudhisthir Misra 4. Srijut Robini Kumar Chandhuri 5. Prof. Niharan Chandra Laskar 6. Shri C. M. Poonacha 7. Shri G. S. Guha 8. Shri B. N. Munavalli 9. Shri Ram Prasad Potai 10. Shri Moturi Satyanarayana	83%
Standing Finance Committee for Railways.	9-7-1948	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri L. S. Bhatkar 3. Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 4. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 5. Sjt. R. K. Chaudhury 6. Mr. Frank R. Anthony 7. Pandit L. K. Maitra 8. Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad	80%
	10-7-1948	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 3. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 4. Sjt. R. K. Chaudhuri 6. Mr. Frank R. Anthony 6. Pandit L. K. Maitra 7. Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad	70%

1	2	3	4
Standing Finance Committee for Railways—*contd.*	8-9-1948	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri L. S. Bhatkar 3. Shri Ramnath Goenka 4. Shri Balkrishna Sharma 5. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 6. Mr. Frank R. Anthony 7. Pandit L. K. Maitra 8. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad	80%
	14-11-1948	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 3. Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 4. Sjt. R. K. Chaudhuri 5. Mr. Frank R. Anthony 6. Pandit L. K. Maitra 7. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad	70%
	22-1-1949	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri Ramnath Goenka 3. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 4. Pandit L. K. Maitra 5. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad	50%
	3-2-1949	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 3. Sjt. R. K. Chaudhuri 4. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad	40%
	15-2-1949	1. Shri L. S. Bhatkar 2. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 3. Sjt. R. K. Chaudhuri 4. Pandit L. K. Maitra	40%
	16-8-1949	1. Shri K. K. Desai 2. Shri L. S. Bhatkar 3. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 4. Pandit L. K. Maitra	40%
Central Advisory Council for Railways.	10-4-1948	1. Shri R. K. Sidhva 2. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta 3. Shri R. R. Diwakar 4. Shri A. C. Guha 5. Shrimati Ammu Swaminathan 6. Shri B. N. Biyani 7. Shri G. B. Daularam Bhati 8. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena 9. Shri K. K. Desai 10. Shri Lakshmen Sitaram Bhatkar 11. Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor 12. Shri Satyanarayan Sinha 13. Sjt. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury 14. Mr. Frank Reginald Anthony 15. Shri Ramnath Goenka 16. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra 17. Shri Balkrishna Sharma 18. Shri K. Santhanam 19. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad	100%

Rehabilitation of Refugees in Bharatpur State

*1669. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Honourable the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons allocated for rehabilitation in the territories comprising the former state of Bharatpur;

(b) the number of displaced persons who actually went there for rehabilitation and the number rehabilitated there (i) in villages and (ii) in town, separately;

(c) the number of displaced persons who went there for settling but returned together with the reasons why they so returned;

(d) the total amount of money so far spent there for the purpose of rehabilitation;

(e) the strength of the staff of the rehabilitation department for the said area, together with the monthly cost of its maintenance; and

(f) the qualifications and experience of the official head of the said rehabilitation department there?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (f). The allocated quota of displaced persons for Matsya Union is 1,00,000. No separate allocation for the several units in the Union has been made. Information in respect of areas formerly comprising Bharatpur State is not available.

IRREGULARITIES IN HANDLING OF FINANCES ALLOTTED FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION IN BHARATPUR STATE

*1670. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether there have been any complaints of irregularities of a serious nature in the handling of finances allotted by the Government of India for the work of relief and rehabilitation in the territory formerly comprising the state of Bharatpur?

(b) If so, have Government instituted any enquiry into this matter?

(c) What are the facts revealed by the enquiry so far?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have received no information so far.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

RATE WAR AMONG SHIPPING LINES

*1671. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a "freight-war" between two shipping lines is going on for the last 10 days?

(b) If so, which companies are involved in it?

(c) Has any urgent message been sent by the Indian Shipping Company to the Honourable Minister in this respect?

(d) What are the reasons for this competition?

(e) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes: a rate war has been in progress in the India/U.K./Continent trades between two Dutch Lines which have left the Conference, on the one hand, and fifteen other Lines which are members of the Conference, on the other, from about the 10th March 1949.

(b) The Lines involved include two Indian companies, *viz.*, Scindia Steam Navigation Co. and India Steamship Co., and several British, American and Continental Lines.

(c) Yes: Certain communications have been received from the two Indian companies affected urging Government to consider what assistance could be given to them to meet their difficulties if the rate war is protected.

(d) So far as Government's information goes, the reasons for the Dutch Lines leaving the Conference and engaging in the rate war are, firstly, the admission into the Conference against the opposition of the Dutch Lines, of the Danish Line, the East Asiatic Co. (India) Ltd. and secondly, the refusal of the other Lines in the Conference to concede the Dutch Line's claim that they should have, if the Danish Line was admitted, an assured substantial share in certain sectors of the India/U.K./Continent trade.

(e) The entire question is at present under consideration in the light of the suggestions made by the companies, but no final decisions have yet been taken regarding the action to be taken by Government. I can assure the House, however, that Government will do everything appropriate and possible to ensure that the position of Indian shipping in this trade is not materially injured.

CENSORING OF FILMS CONTAINING INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG AND SLOGANS IN EASTERN PAKISTAN

*1672. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report appearing in the *Nation* of Calcutta, dated the 22nd March, 1949 (page 8, column 6) to the effect that "East Pakistan Censors have preferred Indian Films containing Indian Dominion Flag and National slogans not to be shown in Pakistan"?

(b) If so, whether it is correct; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of India have seen the press report and have also received a representation from the Bengal Motion Picture Association drawing attention to the refusal by the East Bengal Board of Film Censors (Pakistan) to certify Indian Films containing scenes and dialogues regarding the Indian National Flag or national slogans.

(c) The Deputy High Commissioner for India in Dacca is being asked to take up the matter with the East Bengal Government.

CONSTRUCTION OF COW SHEDS IN M.C.A. BUNGALOWS

*1673. **Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the members of this House are not permitted to construct cow sheds in their bungalows even at their own cost by the Government;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the by-laws of the Municipal Committee do not bar such construction;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the conditions regarding drains sewer connection and the superficial floor area of 40 square feet (8 x 5) necessary for permission exist; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to allow the construction of cow sheds in the bungalows wherever possible and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) There is no bar to the construction of cow sheds by the members of the Assembly in their bungalows at their own cost, provided the construction is done according to the current Municipal bye laws and there is sufficient suitable space in the compound of the bungalow for the construction of the cow shed.

(b) The bye-laws of New Delhi Municipal Committee do not bar the construction of cow sheds generally provided they are properly constructed with drainage arrangements and at a prescribed distance from the house.

(c) Conditions with regard to drains and sewer connection exist on Ferozshah Road, but suitable gross area of 72·2 sq. feet required for the construction of a cow shed, according to the New Delhi Municipal Committee's bye-laws, is not available in the compound of M.L.As. bungalows on Ferozshah Road.

(d) The question whether Government should continue to construct cow-sheds at their cost in Government bungalows in New Delhi is under examination in consultation with the Health Ministry. As already stated, however, there is no bar to tenants putting up cow-sheds, at their own cost in conformity with the Municipal bye-laws.

ABDUCTED NON-MUSLIM WOMEN TAKEN TO AFGHANISTAN

*1674. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a number of abducted non-Muslim women have been taken across the western border of Pakistan to Afghanistan where they are now captives of landlords and Nawabs?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have Government brought this matter to the notice of the Afghanistan Government and if so with what result?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative do Government propose to enquire into the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) Government have received reports that a number of abducted non-Muslim women have been taken over the Pakistan border into Afghanistan.

(b) and (c). The matter was taken up with the Afghan Government during June 1948 and they have repeatedly given their assurance to help India as far as possible in the recovery of abducted women from areas under their control. As the task of locating the abducted women is fraught with many practical difficulties, it will take some time before any tangible results are achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ECONOMIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

*1674-A. **Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the Economic Programme Committee of which the Prime Minister of India is the Chairman?

(b) How far have Government implemented these recommendations?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There is no Economic Programme Committee of which the Prime Minister is Chairman. Presumably the honourable member is referring to the National Planning Committee which was set up some ten years ago by the President of the National Congress and of which the Prime Minister was Chairman. This Committee has made various recommendations from time to time during these years. I could not finalise its work. It has however recently published a large number of volumes containing the reports of its Sub-Committees.

(b) Government have noted the suggestions made from time to time and will take into consideration the recommendations whenever the question of overall planning is considered.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

(Postponed from 28th March, 1949)

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

*1422. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish a National Housing Corporation; if so, when;

(b) how the necessary finances for the same are going to be raised; and

(c) the purpose and functions of the proposed corporation?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). The general proposal is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND UNIONS

182. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industrial workers in India in 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49;

(b) the names of Unions with their membership; and

(c) which of these Unions have been recognised by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) A statement showing the average daily number of workers employed in factories, mines, railways and plantations in the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 is attached. Later figures are not available.

(b) Information is available only in respect of registered trade unions having a membership of 1,000 or more. This is furnished in the Labour Year Book for 1946, a copy of which is available in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) As regards the unions recognised by the Government of India as employer, attention is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 16th March 1949 in furtherance of my reply to Shri V. C. Kesava Rao's question No. 278 on the 14th February 1948.

STATEMENT

Industrial Employment in India

	1945	1946	1947
Factories	26,42,977	24,74,873†	22,79,807§
Mines	3,86,290	4,12,719	4,07,263
Railways*	9,90,874	10,46,855	8,28,948
Plantations‡	10,93,654	12,84,048	11,72,828

N. B.—The figures for 1945 and 1946 relate to British India, while those for 1947 relate to the Indian Dominion. While the figures for factories and mines cover the provinces and centrally administered areas only, the figures for Railways and Plantations cover Indian States also.

* The figures relate to the Financial Years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48.

† For the Punjab and the N. W. F. P. the figures relating to 1945 have been taken since later figures are not available.

‡ In the cases of certain districts like Darjeeling the figures for the previous year have been taken as later information is not available.

§ For East Punjab an estimate based on the statistics relating to 1947 has been taken.

REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA

133. Shri A. V. Thakkar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of residents of each of the camps for displaced persons in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara as on some particular date in March or April, 1949;

(b) the total number of persons in each camp in receipt of free rations and the approximate daily expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total number of persons purchasing their own rations; and

(d) the date or dates by which people of each camp will be fully self-supporting in the matter of rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). A statement giving the information in respect of Delhi Province is laid on the table of the House. As regards Ajmer-Merwara the information is being collected.

(d) Distribution of free rations to able bodied persons and their dependants will be discontinued on the 8th April, 1949. It is hoped that in Ajmer-Merwara such discontinuance will be possible by the 31st October, 1949.

STATEMENT

Name of the camp in Delhi	Population as it stood on 19.3.49	Number in receipt of free rations	Daily expenditure.	Number purchasing their own rations
			Rs.	
Kingsway	21,458	16,930	12,698	4,528
Humayon's Tomb	3,027	2,670	2,006	357
Kalkali	1,409	1,156	867	253
Safdar Jang	1,319	1,247	936	72
Wavell Canteen	225	174	131	51
Purana Qilla	4,404	..	..	4,404
Anand Parbat	3,926	..	..	3,926
Bela Road	2,234	..	..	2,234
Tis Hazari	2,064	..	..	2,064
Kotla Feroshah	1,477	..	..	1,477
Schools	815	..	..	815

REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN C.P. AND BERAR

134. Shri A. V. Thakkar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of residents of each of the camps for displaced persons located in the Central Provinces and Berar as on some particular date in March or April, 1949;

(b) the total number of persons in each camp in receipt of free rations and the approximate daily expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total number of persons purchasing their own rations; and

(d) the date or dates by which people of each camp will be fully self-supporting in the matter of rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). The information has been called for.

(d) It is hoped that this will be possible by the end of October, 1949.

REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN MADHYA BHARAT AND MATSYA UNIONS

135. Shri A. V. Thakkar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of residents of each of the camps for displaced persons situated in Madhyabharat and Matsya Unions as on some particular date in March or April, 1949;

(b) the total number of persons in each camp in receipt of free rations and the approximate daily expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total number of persons purchasing their own rations; and

(d) the date or dates by which people of each camp will be fully self-supporting in the matter of rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). The information has been called for.

(d) It is hoped that this will be possible by the end of October, 1949.

REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN U.P.

136. Shri A. V. Thakkar: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of residents of each of the camps for displaced persons located in the United Provinces as on some particular date in March or April, 1949;

(b) the total number of persons in each camp in receipt of free rations and the approximate daily expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the total number of persons purchasing their own rations; and

(d) the date or dates by which people of each camp will be fully self-supporting in the matter of rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (c). The information has been called for.

(d) It is hoped that this will be possible by the end of October, 1949.

COMMODITIES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO PAKISTAN

137. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the quantities and value of each commodity imported from and exported to Eastern and Western Pakistan by the Indian Union during the year ended December 1948?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: A statement giving the requisite information as far as available from the foreign sea-borne trade returns for the nine months ending December, 1948, is laid on the table of the House. Similar statistics for the calender year ending December, 1948, are not available as Pakistan was declared as a 'foreign territory' only with effect from the 1st March, 1948.

Figures relating to Indo-Pakistan trade by land are not available at present. Arrangements for the systematic collection of such statistics are however being made.

STATEMENT

Quantity and value of the Principal Articles imported into India by sea from Pakistan Western and Eastern, during the nine months April to December, 1948

Articles	Unit	Pakistan Western		Pakistan Eastern	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			Rs.		Rs.
1. Animals, living	No.	15	7,950		..
2. Apparel (excluding hosiery, etc.)—					
(a) Apparel (including drapery, etc.)	Value		14,715		66
(b) Other sorts of apparel	,,		10,742		752
3. Books, printed and printed matter	Cwt.	31,063	3,03,740	7	9,279
4. Boots and shoes	Pair	3,094	6,108		..
5. Brushes and Brooms	Dozen	521	12,134		..
6. Building and engineering materials, other than of iron, steel or wood—					
(i) Cement—					
(a) Portland	Ton	89,842	44,80,374		
(b) Other kinds	,,	6,884	7,17,141		
(ii) Other kinds of Building, etc.	Cwt.	1,451	3,640		..
7. Buttons of all sorts	Value	..	48,085		651
8. Chemicals and Chemical preparation—					
(a) Potassium Compounds	Cwt.	14,767	7,00,645		..
(b) Sodium compounds	..	..	..		..
(c) Sodium Carbonate	Cwt.	1,417	22,073		..
(d) Other sorts of chemicals	Value	..	1,64,022		..
9. Clocks and watches and parts thereof	,,	..	12,712		2,875
10. Cork manufactures	Cwt.	163	22,143		..
11. Cutlery	Value	..	13,670		..
12. Drugs—					
(a) Asafoetida	Cwt.	7,190	6,83,671		..
(b) Saccharin	Lbs.	2,586	43,570		..
(c) Other sorts	Value	..	8,40,576		1,115
13. Dyeing and Tanning substances	Value	..	73,116		..
14. Earthenware and Porcelain	,,	..	43,038		..
15. Fish, excluding canned fish—					
(a) Fish, dry—					
(i) unsalted	Cwt.	1,857	35,946	61	1,202
(ii) salted	,,	2,329	42,974		..
(b) Fish, wet—					
(i) Salted	,,	5,401	1,08,269		
16. Fodder, Bran and Pollards	Cwt.	52,763	9,39,797		
17. Fruits and Vegetables—					
(i) Fruits and vegetable dried, salted, etc. —					
(a) Almond	Ton	667	12,77,768	..	
(b) Currant and raisins	,,	1,437	15,46,314	..	
(c) Others	,,	899	14,64,414	..	
(ii) Other sorts of fruits and vegetables	Value		4,998		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			Rs.		Rs.
18. Furniture and Cabinet ware	Value		36,403		764
19. Glass and Glassware—					
(a) Beads and false Pearls	Cwt.	37	35,591		
(b) Bottles and Phials	Gross	3,494	43,686		
(c) Other sorts	Value	..	84,639		
20. Grain Pulse, etc.—					
(a) Pulse	Ton	4,920	15,92,578		..
(b) Rice not in the husk	,,	45,845	144,34,173		..
(c) Wheat flour	,,	130	42,781		..
(d) Others	,,	26	11,978		..
21. Gums and Resins	Cwt.	37,894	3,01,510		..
22. Hardware, excluding cutlery, etc.—					
(a) Implements and tools	Value	..	79,552		..
(b) Hand Pumps	No.	84,475	2,40,112		..
(c) Other sorts	Value	..	2,22,458		3,652
23. Hides and Skins, raw—					
(a) Hides, raw	Ton	737		474	
	No.	77,662	10,24,918	1,13,830	865,057
(b) Skins, raw	Ton	97		44	
	No.	118,794	2,11,090	45,213	120,414
24. Instruments, Apparatus, etc.—					
(i) Electrical including tele. graph etc.—					
(a) Telegraph and Tele. phone inst.	Value		1,02,020	..	..
(b) Electric lamps and parts thereof	,,	..	1,21,863	..	
(ii) Optical	,,	..	43,899	..	..
(iii) Photographic	,,	..	42,536	..	191
(iv) Wireless apparatus—					
(a) Complete receivers	No.	1,293	2,97,076	..	
(b) Other wireless apparatus	Value	..	92,784	..	
(v) Other kinds of instrument	,,	..	1,45,390	..	
25. Jewellery (excluding imitation jewellery, etc.)	,,		86,418		8,870
26. Liquors, including denatured, etc. —					
(a) Ale, beer and Porter	L. G.	15,491	1,81,077		
(b) Spirit	,,	7,577	2,74,974		
(c) Wines	,,	1,729	74,051		
27. Machinery and Millwork—					
(i) Prime-movers (other than elec.)—					
(a) Oil engines (other than locomotives)	No.	4	1,74,476	..	..
(ii) Electrical machinery	Value		51,408	..	..
(iii) Machinery, not being prime movers or electrical—					
(a) metal working machinery	,,		59,360	..	..
(b) Refrigerating machinery	,,		94,589	..	..
(iv) Other sorts of machinery	,,		7,81,798	..	9,905

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			Rs.		Rs.
28. Metals and ores—					
(a) Iron or steel	Ton	143	1,30,473		
(b) Metals unenumerated	,,	4	14,861		
(c) Ores, unenumerated	,,	255	25,549		
29. Oils—					
(a) Animals	Value	..	8,997		
(b) Essential	Gal.	104	16,123		
(c) Mineral	,,	218	1,158		
30. Paints and colours	Cwt.	696	81,683		
31. Painters' materials	Value	..	16,050		
32. Paper	Cwt.	366	25,968		
33. Perfumes not being perfumed	Value	..	47,275		
34. Polishes	,,	..	63,822		
35. Provisions and Oilman's stores—					
(a) Biscuits and cakes	Cwt.	1,572	2,17,510		
(b) Other sorts of provisions	Value	..	35,734		
36. Rubber	,,	..	16,973		
37. Salt	Ton	39,992	27,93,634		
38. Seeds—					
(a) Essential oil seeds	,,	1,120	8,65,388	38	52,642
(b) Non-essential oil seed	,,	5,100	17,83,522	689	1,39,676
(c) Other than oil seeds	,,	476	2,15,007	13	8,795
39. Soap	Cwt.	403	25,545		
40. Spices—					
(a) Chillies	,,			3,621	1,38,158
41. Stationery (excluding paper)	Value		2,36,888		70
42. Textiles—					
(a) Cotton, raw	Ton	26,225	6,35,15,788	..	..
(b) Jute, raw	,,	..	..	530	4,62,696
(c) Silk, piecegoods	Yds.	7,763	49,834	..	..
(d) Wool, raw	Lbs.	4,04,308	447,490	..	..
(e) Yarn and knitting wool	,,	39,068	3,95,906	..	..
(f) Woollen Manufactures—					
(i) Carpet and floor rugs	,,	51,449	2,75,065		
(ii) Woollen and worsted piecegoods	Yds.	15,328	1,43,491		
(g) Artificial Silk—					
(i) Art silk yarn	Lbs.	17,705	1,23,651		
(ii) Piecegoods made entire of art silk	Yds.	26,821	1,06,538		..
43. Tobacco—manufactured—					
(i) Cigarettes	Lbs.	1,00,024	6,31,237	1	19
(ii) Other sorts	,,	11,856	41,489		..
44. Toilet requisites	Value		1,17,200		
45. Toys and requisites for games and sports	,,		1,47,528		
46. Vehicles, excluding Locomotives, etc....					
(a) Cycles (other than motor cycle) and parts thereof and accessories	,,		1,25,300		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
46. Vehicles, excluding Locomotives, etc.—*contd.*					
(b) Mechanically propelled vehicles—			Rs.		Rs.
(i) Parts of aircrafts	Value	..	3,52,431		3,230
(ii) Motor cars	No.	7	17,284		..
(iii) Parts of mechanically propelled, Vehicles.	Value		32,898		
47. Wood and Timber	,,	..	29,924	..	..
48. Postal Articles	,,	..	27,88,248	..	2,81,710
49. All other articles	,,	..	3,66,027	..	98,349
Grand Total	,,	..	11,08,06,049	..	21,40,014

NOTE.—The figures are inclusive of Government Stores and the sea-borne trade of Kutch with effect from the 1st April and 1st June, 1948 respectively.

Quantity and value of the principal articles exported by sea from India to Pakistan Western and Eastern during the nine months April to December, 1948.

Commodities	Unit.	Pakistan Western		Pakistan Eastern.	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Animal Living—			Rs.		Rs.
Horses	No.	13	39,000		..
Apparel			35,35,852		14,023
Books Printed and Printed matter	Cwt.	1,945	4,62,676	3,234	3,68,872
Boots and Shoes—					
1. Rubber Soled with canvas uppers	Pair.	60,489	1,56,349	140	658
2. Others	,,	237,150	8,42,481	82	520
Building and Engineering materials, other than of Iron, steel or wood—					
1. Bricks	No.	15,000	6,500	..	..
2. Chalk and lime	Cwt.	2,727	29,710	..	..
3. Tiles	No.	233,850	34,415	8	112
4. Others	Cwt.	3,797	41,619	11,609	1,32,178
Canes and Rattans	,,	452	25,296	..	..
Chemicals and chemical preparations— (exluding Chemical Manures and medicines)					
1. Magnesium Compounds—					
(a) Magnesium chloride	,,	15	225	..	..
(b) Others	,,	112	3,269	..	..
2. Potassium Compounds—					
(a) Others sorts	,,	1	350	146	3,750
3. Soda Compounds—					
(a) Other sorts	,,	12,905	3,57,422	2,043	55,770
4. Other sorts of chemicals		..	7,38,481	..	36,475
Coal and Coke					
1. Coal	Tons.	367,292	76,21,382		
2. Coke	,,	717	22,466		
Coffee	Cwt.	558	26,282		
Coir—					
1. Unmanufactured	Tons	43	22,728	..	..
2. Manufactured—					
(a) Coir Yarn	Cwt.	15,178	565,242	1,557	63,273
(b) Coirmats & Mattings	,,	2,418	143,534	24	1,410
(c) Coirother sorts	,,	227	12,860	98	5,040

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			Rs.		Rs.
Cordage and Rope of vegetable fibre (excluding jute and cotton)	Cwt.	27,380	10,75,526	130	3,290
Drugs and Medicines —					
1. Camphor	Lbs.	1	712		..
2. Nuxvomica	Cwt.	21	254		..
3. Senna	,,	251	5,909		..
4. Other sorts of Drugs and Medicines		..	22,26,225	..	1,11,620
Dyeing and Tanning Substances —					
1. Catch and Gambier	Cwt.	2,709	4,07,294	434	41,735
2. Indigo	,,	..	..	1	100
3. Myrobalans	,,	12,221	93,758	..	..
4. Myrobalans Extracts	,,	294	18,865	..	..
5. Other sorts	,,	1,169	42,732	16	26,000
Earthern ware and Porcelain		..	574,331	..	14,182
Fibre for brushes and Brooms	Tons	5	5,572	..	..
Fish (excluding canned fish)—					
1. Fish, dry, unsalted	,,	17	1,400		..
Fruits and Vegetables—					
1. Fresh fruits and vegetables—					
(a) Fresh fruits —					
(i) Coconuts	No.	20,000	2,400		
(ii) Others		..	227,383		
(b) Fresh vegetables of all kinds			..		
(c) Others			406,874		
Fruits and vegetables, dried salted or preserved all sorts :—					
(i) Cashew Kernels	Tons	88	2,60,237	8	1,101
(ii) Others	,,	1,524	5,60,601	112	67,518
Furniture and Cabinetware		..	35,098	..	6,911
Glass and Glassware		..	757,144	..	26,822
Grain Pulse and Flour —					
1. Barley	,,	1,500	150,000		..
2. Maize	,,	500	100,000		..
3. Dals	,,	450	51,480		..
4. Lentils	,,	10	3,600		..
5. Other sorts	,,	29	11,700		..
Gums and Resins—					
1. Arabic	Cwt.	149	12,210	29	2,355
2. Benjamin	,,	4	810	..	..
3. Olibanum	,,	2	175	..	..
4. Rosin	,,	..	11,381	..	..
5. Other sorts	,,	..	1,54,824	35	2,912
Hardware and Cutlery	Value	..	6,03,452	..	1,71,170
Skins raw—					
(a) Goat skins	Tons	39	69,543		..
(b) Sheep skins	,,	11	78,000		..
(c) Other skins	,,	..	32,303		..
Cutting of hides etc.	,,	..	1,250		..
Instruments, etc.—					
1. Musical	Value	..	7,94,653	..	68,326
2. Other kinds	,,	..	12,51,012	..	78,284
Ivory—Unmanufactured	Lbs.	749	9,800	..	..
Jewellery	Value	..	8,100	..	..
Lac—Seed	Cwt.	45	9,086	..	..
Lac—Shell	,,	31	6,176	2	480
Lac—Other kinds	,,	56	8,646	..	..
Leather—					
1. Hides tanned or dressed—					
(a) Buffalo hides	Tons.	466	14,46,404	..	876
(b) Cow hides	,,	627	54,20,439	..	1,225
(c) Calf skins —					
Buffalo calf skins.	,,	7	26,401	..	..
Cow calf skins	,,	8	63,305	..	..
(d) Other hides	,,	4	45,850	..	..

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Leather – *contd.*					
2. Skins tanned or dressed					
(a) Goat skins	Tons.	81	6,88,694		238
(b) Sheep skins	,,	97	10,97,315		5,994
(c) Other skins	,,	1	1,24,445		952
3. Unwrought	Cwt.	806	4,00,995		..
4. Manufactures—					
(a) Leather belting	,,	15	21,500	..	..
(b) Bags, trunks, etc.	Value.	..	1,17,571	..	..
(c) Other sorts	,,	..	1,73,675	..	4,068
Liquors—other sorts	Gallons	474	9520	59	1,162
Machinery and Millwork etc.	Value	..	4,55,440	..	56,072
Mats and Mattings	Sq. yds.	16,791	31,900	..	..
1. Brass. Bronze and similar alloys etc. Wrought	Cwt.	5	915	..	..
2. Copper—Wrought	,,	150	29,180	..	..
3. Copper—Others	,,	8	650	..	..
4. Copper	Tons.	2,114	3,31,930	..	..
5. Iron—Manufactures angle, bolt etc.	,,	341	1,07,390	..	..
6. Bars and channels	,,	18	6,232	..	..
7. Steel—Bars	,,	201	71,126	..	..
8. Hoops and Strips	,,	..	560	2	1,968
9. Nails, Screws etc.	,,	2	3,463	14	8,991
10. Old for Remanufactures	,,	50	8,500	..	..
11. Pipes and fittings—Cast	,,	584	1,74,345	..	..
12. Sheets and Plates	,,	993	5,08,045	940	4,79,965
13. Tubes pipes and fittings wrought	,,	6	9,000	..	..
14. Other manufactures of Iron or Steel	,,	2,726	8.41.927	..	..
15. Tin—Wrought	Cwt.	4,800	1,80,500	..	..
16. Metals, Unenumerated	,,	8,403	23,54,759	1,052	3,27,108
17. Ores, Unenumerated	Tons.	1,388	3,69,226	1	245
18. Mica—Splittings	Cwt.	..	..	..	120
19. Oils—Animal	Gallons	655	6,180	..	..
20. Oils—Sandal wood	,,	20	4,944	..	..
21. Oils—Mineral—Other kinds	,,	4,475	51,778	303	2,805
22. Oils—Castor	,,	84,848	5,52,875	4,890	33,260
23. Oils—Cocoanut	,,	6,900	34,700	97,218	6,70,362
24. Oils—Groundnut	,,	46,707	3,16,262	370,237	23,21,035
25. Oils—Linseed	,,	764	6,479	24,183	1,43,071
26. Oils—Mustard	,,	..	..	201,955	16,64,573
27. Other sorts	,,	1,45,503	9,31,790	12,099	84,152
28. Opium	Cwt.	234	7,82,400	..	..
29. Graphite	,,	20	1,902	..	..
30. Graphite—Other sorts	,,	15,762	12,50,832	9,331	1,36,605
31. Turpentine—Other sorts	Value	..	84,013	..	..
32. Paper—Printing paper	Cwt.	41	2,600	160	7,500
33. Other kinds of paper	,,	8,196	6,42,377	168	14,265
34. Paste Board etc.	,,	892	31,906	..	..
35. Perfumery	Value	..	72,888	..	590
36. Precious Stones	,,	..	3,000	..	..
37. Printing and Lithographing	,,	..	13,692	..	..
38. Confectionery	Cwt.	10,213	10,30,252	11	776
39. Pickles, Chutniee, etc.	,,	437	20,931	141	9,68
40. Other sorts	,,	29,147	24,34,017	207	27,588
Rubber manufacture	Value	..	44,67,409	..	1,12,975
Salt	Tons.	20	17,161	8,011	2,20,000
Oilseeds—					
Essential—					
,, Ajama	,,	76	42,077		..
,, Ajwan	,,	12	5,068	2	904
,, Aniseed	,,	..	90	22	15,034
,, Coriander	,,	..	348	..	..
,, Cumin (other than black)	,,	16	25,119	14	25,745
,, Cumin (black)	,,	7	552	..	..
,, Fennel	,,	114	63,826	47	24,770
,, Fenugreek	,,	2	910	6	3,240
,, Swa or Dil	,,	1	6,935	..	..
,, Other sorts	,,	10	11,005	..	52

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Oilseeds—contd.					
Non-essential—					
„ Copra or Coconut kernel	Tons.	96	93,900	..	..
„ Groundnuts	„	184	1,58,700	18	11,700
„ Mustard	„	..	..	27	12,350
„ Poppy	„	9	8,975	1	1,852
„ Other sorts	„	360	1,47,189	2	3,551
Other than oil seeds	„	128	96,575	..	..
Shells and cowries—					
Cowries	Cwt.	29	1,230	..	..
Shells	„	14	1,200	..	..
Soap	„	22,668	21,84,327	3,911	3,32,786
Spices—					
Betelnuts	„	883	72,770	2	150
Cardamoms	„	3,489	9,26,472	75	20,586
Chillies	„	123	6,860	..	..
Cinnamon	„	73	5,199	34	1,404
Cloves	„	..	..	35	3,620
Ginger	„	759	42,009	..	..
Pepper	„	20	3,013	342	65,595
Turmeric	„	29,523	14,33,768	7,444	4,01,117
Other sorts	„	195	12,469	221	17,330
Stationery (excluding Paper)	Value	..	6,76,373	..	99,821
Stone and marble—					
Other sorts	Tons	21	7,332	3	2,080
Sugar—					
23 Dutch Standard and above	„	3,377	34,06,633		..
" below 23 D. S. standard but not below 16 D. S.	„	275	3,65,520	38	54,619
" 16 D. S. and below	„	11	660	..	..
Molasses (including palmyra and cane jaggery)	„	1,928	9,29,321	4,039	14,75,924
Tallow and stearine (including grease and animal fat)	Cwt.	..	..	88	8,817
Tea—					
Black	Lbs.	9,702,564	2,01,74,683	8,108	20,730
Green	„	113,179	2,48,433	..	..
Textiles—					
Cotton—					
(a) Raw	Tons and Bales.				1,940
(b) Waste	Cwt.	4,733	327,058	34	32,06,470
Total Twist and Yarn	Lbs.	4,510,933	75,59,634	1,742,137	..
(i) Canvas	Yards	75,311	109,084	40	82
(ii) Handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece	No.	89,646	45,356	..	..
(iii) Hosiery			33,83,762	..	1,81,383
Piecegoods—					
(i) Total Grey (unbleached)	Yds	26,872,096	205,90,394	2,653,725	20,86,118
(ii) Total white (bleached)	„	37,213,160	335,23,576	823,710	8,15,866
(iii) Total Coloured printed or dyed	„	54,200,694	6,46,47,294	16,332,117	2,34,96,704
(iv) Thread Sewing	Lbs.	246,069	11,12,637	..	..
(v) Other sorts of manufactures	„	205,182	4,71,965	7,367	16,497
TOTAL—					
Haberdashery	Value	..	1,72,124	..	..
Other sorts	„	..	7,68,255	..	26,082
Hemp manufactures	„	..	2,100	..	..
Twist and yarn	Lbs.	..	..	6,720	5,073
Manufactures.—					
Canvas	Yds.	75,650	1,92,001	16,692	23,773
Total gunny bags	No.	16,677,420	2,01,10,850	984,500	9,34,272
Total gunny cloth		8,659,700	41,17,642	120,000	66,312
Rope and Twine	Cwt.	25,288	15,23,423	447	27,620
Other kind	„	545	72,812	158	15,085

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Silk—					
Manufactures—					
(*i*) Goods of silk, etc.	Yds.	29,714	1,17,000	..	..
(*ii*) Silk piecegoods	,,	1,708,534	64,12,598	244,705	6,62,102
(*iii*) Other sorts	Lbs.	5,362	1,21,103	400	3,202
Wool—					
Raw	,,	72,385	81,786	..	..
Manufactures—					
(*i*) Carpets and rugs	,,	133,053	3,83,230	3,646	13,222
(*ii*) Piecegoods	Yds.	18,839	2,49,447	..	..
(*iii*) Shawls	No.	..	..	4,191	72,039
(*iv*) Other sorts	Lbs.	163,054	11,32,336	105,923	10,40,013
Other textiles—					
Manufactured—					
(*i*) Art silk piecegoods	Yds.	21,965,286	4,73,46,099	1,280	2,900
(*ii*) Other sorts	Value	..	2,71,294	..	..
Tobacco—					
Unmanufactured	Lbs.	1,883,804	16,15,080	9,662	9,387
Manufactured—					
(*i*) Cigars	,,	16,773	43,201	374	915
(*ii*) Cigarettes	,,	1,061,358	83,58,882	140,194	1,156,777
(*iii*) Other sorts	,,	763,748	22,71,905	25,243	67,253
Toys, etc.	Value	..	4,41,005	..	54
Umbrellas, etc.	Nos.	600	3,600	1,800	18,000
Vehicles—					
(*i*) Parts of carriages etc.	Value	..	600	..	
(*ii*) Ships, parts of etc.		..	9,000	..	
(*iii*) Other Kinds		..	40,972	..	
Wax of all kinds	Cwt.	189	13,600	..	
Wood and Timber—					
(*i*) Hardwood	Cubic Tons	218	45,043	..	
(*ii*) Sandal wood	,,	9	26,792	..	..
(*iii*) Other Kinds	Value	..	54,836	..	..
(*iv*) Manufactures etc.	,,	..	18,707	..	..
All other articles etc.	,,	..	69,99,897	..	3,42,676
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS	,,	..	31,86,82,712	..	4,48,04,902

NOTE.— The figures include the Government stores and the Sea borne trade of Kutch with effect from the 1st April 1948 and 1st June 1948 respectively.

Monday
4th April, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)]

Official Report

Volume III, 1949

(19th March, 1949 to 5th April, 1949)

Fourth Session

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1949

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CONTENTS

Volume III—19th March, 1949 to 5th April, 1949.

	Pages
SATURDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1949—	
General Budget—List of Demands	1583—1638
Demand No. 9—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)	1583—99
Demand No. 24—Ministry of Communications	1583—99
Proposed increase in Postal Rates	1584—99
Demand No. 47—Meteorology	1584—99
Demand No. 57—Overseas Communication Service	1584—1600
Demand No. 59—Telephone Factory	1584—1600
Demand No. 60—Aviation	1584—1600
Demand No. 92—Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)	1584—1600
Demand No. 93—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)	1584—1600
Demand No. 95—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation	1584—1600
Demand No. 26—Ministry of Food	1600—36
Stoppage of Food Grains Import from Foreign Countries	1605—36
Food Shortage and Policy	1606—36
Demand No. 7—Forest	1601—36
Demand No. 17—Ministry of Agriculture	1601—36
Co-ordination with Provinces and failure to meet shortage of food	1606—36
Demand No. 41—Survey of India	1601—36
Demand No. 42—Botanical Survey	1601—36
Demand No. 43—Zoological Survey	1601—36
Demand No. 53—Agriculture	1601—36
Demand No. 54—Civil Veterinary Services	1601—36
Demand No. 65—Indian Dairy Department	1601—37
Demand No. 90—Capital Outlay on Forests	1601—37
Demand No. 11—Constituent Assembly	1637
Demand No. 12—Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)	1637
Demand No. 14—Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	1637
Demand No. 15—Ministry of Law	1637
Demand No. 36—Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation	1638
Demand No. 33—Administration of Justice	1638
Demand No. 38—Ecclesiastical	1638
Demand No. 48—Department of Scientific Research	1638
Demand No. 91—Broadcasting	1638
Demand No. 75—Expenditure on Refugees	1638
Demand No. 96—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting	1638
MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1949—	
Papers laid on the Table	1639—41
Bombay Port Trust (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1641
Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy and Land Records Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1641
Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of sections 361, 375, etc.)—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1641

	PAGES
MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1949—*contd.*	
Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Extension of time for presentation of Report of Select Committee	1641—42
Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to refer to Select Committee—not concluded	1642-1702
TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1949—	
Papers laid on the Table	1703
Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Bill—Introduced	1703
Indian Finance Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1703—50
WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1949—	
Non-inclusion of Hindu Code in Order Paper	1751
Papers laid on the Table	1751—53
Motion *re* Elections to Standing Advisory Committees	1753—67
Election to Standing Finance Committee	1767
Election to Committee on Public Accounts	1767—70
Elections to Standing Finance Committee for Railways and Central Advisory Council for Railways	1770—71
Election to Central Committee of Tuberculosis Association of India	1771
Railways (Transport of Goods) Amendment Bill—Passed	1772—83
Industries (Development and Control) Bill—Introduced	1784
Resolution *re* Extension of period mentioned in Sections 2 and 3 of India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946 as Adapted—Adopted	1784—1805
THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1949—	
Statement on Report of Cattle Protection and Preservation Committee	1807—08
Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—not concluded	1808—57
FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1949—	
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of Commerce, Communications and Defence	1859
Hindu Marriages Validity Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1859
Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1859—60
Indian Judicial Procedure Bill—Extension of time for presentation of Report of Select Committee	1860
Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—Passed as amended	1860—72
Tea Committee for India Bill—Passed as amended	1872—1908
Indian Finance Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	1875
Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—not concluded.	1908-09
SATURDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1949—	
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of External Affairs, Food and Health	1911
Motion *re*—	
Relief and Rehabilitation Situation	1911—61
Information and Broadcasting.	1961—96
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Agriculture	1996
MONDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1949—	
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Agriculture	1997
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Communications	1997

	PAGES
MONDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1949—*contd.*	
Election to Standing Committees for Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Labour	1998
Delhi Hotels (Control of Accommodation) Bill—Introduced.	1998
Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	1998—2000
Governor-General's Salary (Exemption from Taxation) Bill—Passed	2000—12
Criminal Law (Removal of Racial Discriminations) Bill—Passed	2012—13
Motion re Report of Indian Railway Enquiry Committee—Talked out	2013—38
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of Agriculture and Communications	2038
TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1949—	
Election to Standing Committees for Ministries of Education, Law, Relief and Rehabilitation and Transport (other than Roads)	2039
Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on motion to consider as reported by Select Committee—not concluded.	2039—86
Statement re the proposed Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers in London	2086—87
WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1949—	
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of Home Affairs and Industry and Supply	2089
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of States and Works, Mines and Power, Department of Scientific Research, Standing Finance Committee and Committee on Public Accounts	2089—90
Fixation of Saturday, the 2nd April for Official Business	2090
Indian Finance Bill—Passed as amended	2090—2102, 2103—33
Statement of Government Business	2102—03
News re Safety of Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel after Air accident near Jaipur	2133
THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1949—	
Papers laid on the Table	2135—38
Election to National Food and Agriculture Organisation Liaison Committee	2138—39
Election to Standing Committee for Roads	2140
Elections to Standing Finance Committee for Railways, Central Advisory Council for Railways and Central Committee of Tuberculosis Association of India	2140
Displaced Persons (Legal Proceedings) Bill—Introduced	2141
Estate Duty Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	2141
Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1948-49	2141—95
FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL, 1949	
Election to All India Council for Technical Education.	2197—2200
Election to Committee to review Conventions re separation of Railway from General Finance	2200—11
Hindu Code—Motion to consider as reported by Select Committee—not concluded	2211—43
SATURDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1949—	
Elections to National Food and Agriculture Organisation Liaison Committee and to Standing Committee for Roads	2245
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill—Introduced	2245
Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2245—46
Influx from Pakistan (Control) Bill—Introduced	2246
Hindu Code—Motions to consider as reported by Select Committee to re-circulate and to re-commit to Select Committee—not concluded	2246—89.

MONDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1949—	PAGES
Elections to All India Council for Technical Education and to the Committee to review Working of Railway Convention	2291
Disposal of the Business of the House	2291—94
Indian Cattle Preservation Bill—Motion for continuation—Adopted	2294
Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	2294—2334
Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	2334—36
Hindu Marriages Validity Bill—Passed as amended	2336—40

TUESDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1949—	
Closing date of the Assembly Session	2341
Papers laid on the Table	2341
Election to Central Tea Board	2342
Election to Central Advisory Board of Archaeology	2342
West Godavari District (Assimilation of Laws on Federal Subjects) Bill—Introduced	2343
Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	2343
Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill—Passed as amended	2343—76
Payment of Taxes (Transfer of Property) Bill—Motion to consider as reported by Select Committee—not concluded	2377—84

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 4th April, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

ELECTIONS TO ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TO THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW WORKING OF RAILWAY CONVENTION

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the All-India Council for Technical education and the Committee to review the working of the Railway Convention, five nominations in the case of the first and nine nominations in the case of the second were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of those committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

I. *All India Council for Technical Education.*—Shri Biswanath Das, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Mr. Mohammad Ismail Khan and Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.

II. *Committee to review the working of the Railway Convention.*—Shri M. Tirumala Rao, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Ramnath Goenka, Shri B. Das, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Shri R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, and Shri Khandubhai K. Desai.

DISPOSAL OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed to the legislative business.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): Before you start with the business of the day, Sir, may I submit, the other day, the honourable the Leader of the House stated that as far as the Government is concerned, it was not necessary that the House should sit beyond the 7th. Today is the 4th. There are 26 Bills yet. I submit to you, Sir, that the House is entitled to know how long we are going to sit, which of the Bills are going to be disposed of within the 7th, and are we going to sit after the 7th. There are only three days more. I hope you will kindly enquire from the Leader of the House and find out for the benefit and information of the House.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): The position, Sir, is this. Certain Bills must be gone through. If the House co-operates, the Bills will be gone through by the 7th. If they are not gone through, then it becomes incumbent to make a request to you to extend the session by a day or at the most two.

Mr. Speaker: That does not satisfactorily explain the position. The expression about the co-operation of the House is very vague. The Government must make it clear and say that these particular Bills must be gone through before the session ends. They must say which are the Bills which the Government want to put through and as regards the others, they may take their own course. The House is entitled to know this.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That statement will be made tomorrow.

An Honourable Member: Has the Priorities Committee met?

Mr. Speaker: Whatever that may be, he is going to make a statement tomorrow. Then the House will know definitely which Bills will be put through. That will have some effect on the co-operation also.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General). Sir, I was under the impression that we have always been co-operating and will always co-operate.

An Honourable Member: That is not in dispute.

Shri Biswanath Das: Since the question has been raised by the honourable Minister, may I know in what manner co-operation is required?

Mr. Speaker: I think we shall be going into an irrelevant debate on that question. That has been settled by my asking him to clarify the position in regard to the Bills which have to be put through.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of information, Sir, the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar stated on Saturday morning that the Government Priorities Committee was meeting in the afternoon and so naturally, we expected an announcement this morning. Now we are told that there will be an announcement tomorrow. I do not know the reason for procrastination on the part of Government.

Mr. Speaker: To settle the priority amongst the 26 or so Bills is one thing. To settle which particular Bills are to be put through is another thing. The honourable Member is referring to the latter question. We must know what Bills require to be put through, according to the Government. The two are entirely different questions.

Seth Govind Das (C. P. and Berar: General): Am I to take it, Sir, after the statement as to which Bills will be taken into consideration, even if those Bills are not disposed of, we shall adjourn on the 9th or we shall sit till all those Bills which are set forth for disposal are disposed of in this session? That is the real point.

Mr. Speaker: As I understood the position from the Leader of the House two or three days back, in any case, we are not sitting beyond the 9th. That is my understanding. We are not going to sit beyond the 7th if the specific Bills which the Government desire to put through are disposed of by the 7th.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): Sir, before you take up the agenda, I submit, there are six Bills for introduction today. They come last. May I request you, Sir, if the movers of the other Bills have no objection, that these Bills may be taken up first, because it will take hardly two or three minutes for this.

Seth Govind Das: This question comes up before the House again and again. As far as a Government is concerned, they always introduce their Bills first, and other business comes afterwards. As far as non-official

members are concerned, they have to introduce them after the whole agenda is completed and sometimes, these Bills are not at all introduced. As my honourable friend Deshbandhu Gupta has just said, it hardly takes two or three minutes for each Bill to be introduced if they are given priority. If no member has objection, they may be taken up first.

Mr. Speaker: The real difficulty is about the Rules of Procedure, Rule 16. Honourable Members will see that priority is fixed by the Rules. I quite appreciate that Bills for introduction should be permitted first as it is more or less a formal business. But, that will be a matter for consideration. The Rules are being amended now and honourable Members may suggest changes so far as Rule 16 is coucerned. Now, so far as Rule 16 is concerned, I have not got the power of suspending the Rule.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, it is not that you are being requested to suspend Rule 16. If the other members who have got precedence in the list have no objection, then, there will be no objection to these Bills being introduced now.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras General): May I say a word, Sir? It will create a very difficult precedent, for this reason. Now, there are already certain Bills which have passed the introduction stage, which are at the consideration stage and notice of motions for reference to Select Committee, etc., is being given. If these new Bills are allowed to come in now, they will begin to run the race with the others, and in the ballot, they will have a chance in preference to these Bills. Are we to go on adding new Bills without disposing of those Bills which have passed the initial stage? The position is like this. After one hundred members have tabled Bills and motions, the next man wakes up at a late hour and wants to run the race along with the others. It is not without so much of experience that this Rule has been so framed. Let the member come early; let him take proper steps. The man who sleeps ought not to be allowed to come in at a late hour and start running the race. There is wisdom in the Rule. Anyway, as the rule stands, we cannot go behind it today. Even otherwise, it would not be correct.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If all the members agree, there can be no objection.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not agree.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Let it be put to the House. I agree to the introduction of the Bills now.

Mr. Speaker: As he has pointed out, apart from the reason for the Rule, which will be considered when the Rules and the amendments are being considered. The chief difficulty now, is an unanimous agreement. Of course, in this case, the House does not seem to be unanimous, and the present case is out of the question. Even in the case of an unanimous agreement, honourable Members seem to forget that there are absent members. We must have some consideration for those who are absent. They are entitled to presume what the order of business will be adhered to and we cannot change the order in their absence, particularly when the question is covered by the Rules. I think the best course would be to consider whether the Rules should be amended or not, instead of proceeding on agreement as suggested.

Shri H. V. Kamath: One last point:- are we to understand, Sir, that the Hindu Code Bill stands over till the next autumn session or for an extraordinary session?

Mr. Speaker: I have no information; but, tomorrow we will get the information as he has promised to say what Bills the Government wish to carry on further in this session.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Is it not open for a member to move that, a particular subject be taken before the others, by means of a resolution? He can move a resolution even now that a particular item may be taken up first before the others.

Mr. Speaker: That is again a different matter. That would raise the question as to how far it is possible to change the order among the particular class of Bills. Among a particular class of Bills, which are grouped for purposes of priority, that question may be permissible and by common agreement it may be allowed; but, so far as different classes of Bills and the different stages at which they are, are concerned, I think, it is difficult to override the Rules.

INDIAN CATTLE PRESERVATION BILL

Seth Govind Das (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to preserve the milch and draught cattle of the country, be continued."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to preserve the milch and draught cattle of the country, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 3, 4, 5 & 6, etc.*), the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 2 and 4*) and the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Section 10, 11 and 13*), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

These three Bills have been consolidated into one Bill by the Select Committee that was appointed to conaider these Bills. The report of the Select Committee is unanimous about these three Bills except in regard to a small question. The changes which these three Bills seek to make in the original Act of 1929 are three or four in number. In the first place, one of the provisions of the Bills seeks to make it compulsory for the Courts to give sentence of imprisonment, in regard to infringement of law under sections 4, 5 and 6. It seeks to enhance the punishment also from one to three months. It seeks to create discretionary power in section 3 to either give imprisonment for 15 days or give a sentence of fine. The other change which the Bill seeks to make is that the age of 14 is raised to 15 in the case of girls and in the case of boys from 18 to 20. The third innovation that the Bill seeks to make is that the offence is made cognizable and a Circle Inspector is only allowed to investigate such offences and the offence is made bailable; also in regard to procedure to previous provision with regard to bonds is done away with. In regard to the provisions of this Bill, the question regarding registration and bonds have been deleted by the Select Committee.

There is one other question, which is fairly material which has not been agreed by the Select Committee. In one of the Bills the proposal was that an amendment to the definition of the word 'child' be made in so far as a man of 45 years or more should not be allowed to marry a girl of less than 18

years. This has not been agreed to by the Select Committee. Now, Sir, since there are no amendments to this Bill, I do not want to take up the time of the House, because there are other important Bills before the House, and I will be very brief in speaking about these five changes. With regard to the first change, Sir, that is the change of age from 14 to 15 and 18 to 20, when the Bill was circulated, there was consensus of opinion in the country that these changes be made. The age of 14 when the Sarda Bill was enacted really went against the opinion of the orthodox people, who wanted to have the marriages solemnised before the girl attained puberty. That thing having been got over and the Rubicon having been crossed, there can be no object to amending the age to 15. Therefore, the general opinion in the country was that the age may be increased and similarly in the case of boys. What the effect of this amendment would be, I would leave the House to draw its own conclusions, because I had much to say before this Bill was referred to the Select Committee in regard to this matter and I do not wish to take up the time of the House by stating what advantages will accrue to the country at large as a result of these changes of all these ages. In regard to the clause dealing with imprisonment also I am very glad that the whole country has received this change in a manner which is very heartening.

12 Noon. Those who are serious about this matter and know about the extent of the evil are fully convinced that unless and until this change is made and the imprisonment made compulsory, the Sarda Act will remain a dead letter. It is therefore absolutely necessary that this imprisonment should be made compulsory.

As regards the question which is a very important question, that is of offences being made cognizable, there was a difference of opinion in the Select Committee, but the majority agreed to make it cognizable. Last time when this Bill was sent for circulation, our Deputy-Speaker took me to task for not having moved this particular amendment in 1929 and he was of opinion that unless and until this was made cognizable, it will not have the effect which those who wanted to see the child marriage abolished wanted to have and there were many other opinions received when the Bill went for circulation that this offence should be made cognizable. In the original Bill in 1946, I thought that people will not agree to make it cognizable as according to me the Police was not absolutely free from corruption and there would be interference in domestic affairs, but on re-consideration, and after seeing the opinion of many people and thinking over the question again I came to the view that unless and until this offence was made cognizable, we will not be able to cope with the situation. At present about 50 per cent. of the girls of the country are married below the age of fifteen. This was the opinion of the Age of Consent Committee in 1929. After that, there has been some change in regard to this and marriageable age has to an extent risen, but so far as the rural areas are concerned, and the backward communities are concerned, there is absolutely no doubt that at least 40 per cent. of the girls in the whole country are married before they attain the age of fifteen. If the marriages take place so early as that, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that prepuberty consumation and consumation soon after puberty do take place. This is a very great crime and one is shocked to find that such heinous crimes are committed in our country.

Now, Sir, the question is, if you put these things in the balance, *viz* some interference in domestic matters and also the fact the police is not absolutely free from corruption, if we place these two things on one side of the scale and the other things *viz* prepuberty and soon after puberty consumations on the other side of the scale, I am certain that every person with a sense of responsibility would think that it is better to make the offence cognizable. The Select Committee have further agreed

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

to make it inveetigable by a Circle Inspector. So far as the Circle Inspectors are concerned, I can say from very long experience at the Bar that they are generally free from corruption. Now the police are not so corrupt as before. I know that the Circle Inspectors belong to a very responsible class; they are above the sub-Inspectors and they are generally free from corruption. When the offence is also bailable, the question becomes very simple whether the marriages has been solemnized and what the ages are and these questions in a majority of cases will be such as will admit of no doubt. Therefore, my submission is that when we have provided other safeguards in this Act, it will not be found that in these cases there will be some sort of domestic trouble etc.

In regard to cases generally so far as investigation is concerned, we have first of all provided that the Circle Inspector alone will investigate the case and secondly, in cases where complaint is brought, the previous provision that a preliminary investigation will be necessary have been kept up. That thing has not been changed, so that in cases of complaint, this will be a safeguard. The court will first hold a preliminary inquiry and after it has satisfied itself in a *prima facie* manner it will issue summons to call the accused. Similarly when the poilce will make an investigation and after the police are satisfied with the case, then alone the case will be brought to the court, so that there will be no chance of false cases. We have made a provision that so far as the bonds are concerned they are to be done away with and in view of the provisions under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code we have provided sufficient safeguards against false cases. Similarly so far as preliminary enquiry is concerned previously it was the practice for a first-class magistrate to make the enquiry. Now he will direct a second-class or third-class magistrate to make such inquiry.

This change is consequential and has been made. I therefore submit that, in regard to all the matters which have been decided by the Select Committee there is an improvement in the Bill. So far as the question of marriages between the ages of 45 and 15 is concerned, I have given notice of an amendment which I will move when the time comes. I do not want to take more time of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, etc.*), the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 2 and 4*) and the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 10, 11 and 13*), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri V. S. Sarwate (Madhya Bharat): I have given notice of certain amendments. Will they be taken up after the general discussion?

Mr. Speaker: I have got with me a copy of his amendments. I may tell the honourable Member that they seem to be beyond the scope of the Bill and therefore not in order. First of all, his amendments are for amending certain sections of the original Act and not clauses in the Bill as it is coming before the House. Secondly they are not within the scope of the present Bill. But I am prepared to consider this matter when we come to the clause-by-clause stage. Then, he may urge whatever he has to say about these.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, I was a member of the Select Committee. We had a fairly good discussion upon several points that are comprised in the Select Committee Report. One point which occasioned keen difference of opinion was the question of making the offences cognizable. I was against it, but I have not written a Minute of Dissent for

the simple reason that I was ardently hoping that I might be able to persuade the Mover to accept that change himself, nor have I given notice of any amendment. Therefore I can only depend upon my hope that I can persuade the Mover to accept this change in the Select Committee Report.

To make this offence cognizable is to throw an apple of discord into society. Legislature is gradually encroaching upon the preserves of social authority. On a previous occasion, possibly when the Mover was introducing this Bill, I had stated that we must bring into existence some kind of Social Authority in the country which had really once existed. But the authority that has functioned in recent times did not want to interfere with social customs and manners for various reasons. The English people had firmly stood against the recognition of changes in social customs. That is what accounted for the Sarada Bill. The Punjab High Court had held post-puberty marriages illegal. In all self-governing countries the progress of law and custom would initiate social reform and, where there is a king, the king would set the example and the subjects would follow without questioning it. But, in this country, the king being an alien and there being no common points in regard to social customs and manners, there was necessarily a wide cleavage between authority and society; in other words, between law and public opinion.

You have three sanctions in society: law which enforces order by means of brute force; public opinion which is merely the individual conscience sublimate though the sublimate represents the greatest common measure of individual advancement in thought and progress. But individual conscience is the highest authority which transcends public opinion and law and reserve to itself the liberty of moving much farther than the collective opinion of society. In all these three stages India's progress had been obstructed and it became necessary for the Legislature to step into the affairs of Society. Really speaking, I said on that occasion, Sir, that we must bring into existence a kind of Social Authority of a sufficiently representative character which should initiate social legislation and when that legislation is so introduced, the political authority, namely the Legislature, should accept it almost entirely without any changes. I then quoted the example of the Economic Council of Germany where economic reforms were initiated and the Reichstag accepted them. I also quoted the example of the Ecclesiastical Council in England where the Church Council's recommendations are adopted by the House of Commons and the House of Lords without any change whatever. If that is so, it is time for us, to take stock of all circumstances and then go slowly just on the occasion of our having attained freedom, instead of using our new-born freedom for effecting social reforms of this kind in our land where we have varying degrees of heterodoxy. To hasten slowly in regard to social matters is not a bad procedure at all.

Now, with regard to this Bill I do not say that the House should wait till such Authority on Social matters is brought into existence. All that I say is that, as the Bill is only a slight widening of the bounds of marriageable age, we might adopt it gradually. We must be able to adopt these changes from the present limits of 14 to 18. We are progressing up to 15 and 20. The disparity of age between 20 and 15 is larger than the disparity of age between 14 and 18. I always thought that 18 was a poor lower limit for the bridegroom. That being so, I welcome this change to 20. But the main point is, who is to take notice of the breaches of this law. In my own town of Masulipatam there came into existence a voluntary body which took interest in social reform. In the early stages of its career it held the balance even between law and the law-breakers of society. They initiated prosecutions. They won the goodwill of the collector and were able to bring to book some of the

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

offenders. But, in course of time, richer people who committed breaches of the law come into the field and temptations came in the way. Then it so happened that the collector discovered that the good offences of those gentlemen in the interests of public progress were not altogether unselfish and promptly he turned the blind eye to the complaints of those people and the society thereafter became practically dead. For ten years now that society has been dormant. If these are the temptations that beset the path of a few gentlemen who with commendable and patriotic spirit, constituted themselves into a society for the maintenance and observance of social reform laws, what will be the position when the police is given authority to intervene in the matter? They will create havoc in society. I cannot believe that, after the establishment of independence, the police have suddenly changed so much in their moral character that you can rely upon that character for the proper enforcement of the law within the bounds of absolute correctness. It is wrong to arm the police force with power to intervene in social matters. It will be a weapon placed in their hands in order to persecute people and turn it to pecuniary gain to themselves.

I do not say that all the police are bad but if even 10 per cent. of the cases come into the hands of unscrupulous police it is a terrible tyranny for people in society. After all it is a pious wish that we express, namely, that all people should observe this law. We make this law knowing that it will not be observed; we know the strength of conservative society which tends to adhere to its old ways. While some of the so-called higher castes have taken to this law as a salvation to them to escape from the tyranny of child marriage, other people have not been touched by it at all and they proceed as if there were no such law. They are illiterate, uneducated. These uninitiated people are altogether unsophisticated; they do not know anything about the law and if the police are let loose upon these poor and helpless people in the villages there will be absolute misery for the people. I therefore hope the honourable Mover will not make this a question of prestige or of success already attained but will reconsider the position in view of the helplessness of the vast number of people in the villages who are liable to break this law in ordinary practice.

Of course it is wrong for us legislators to say that we are enacting a law when it is not going to be observed, but it is no use being blind to facts. We are trying to convert a nation of 30 crores of people to new standards of morality and propriety in regard to marriage laws; and in a country where marriage for the average man and woman is considered the proper thing, with the kind of public opinion that prevails here we should not deliberately create an instrument of tyranny and oppression in the hands of the police in regard to a new additional field of social activity. I therefore beg the honourable Mover to reconsider his position and, if possible, make this little concession.

Of course I am not slow in recognising the supreme necessity for introducing social reform. I need not repeat that I have been rather heterodox and even a heretic for the last 50 years of my life, ever since I was 19 years old. But I will say also that there is a hardship created in regard to this offence. Even if you make it cognizable I hope you will allow an interregnum of two years in order to enforce the cognisable portion of the law. I have a grandchild of 14; supposing I have fixed up her marriage; it is a bilateral affair and not a unilateral one and we have to reckon with the bridegroom's party. Suppose we have fixed the marriage day three months hence; in the meantime your law comes into force. It creates a difficulty and the other party is not willing to wait; and marriages cannot be merely postponed like the hearing of cases in law courts. Therefore I say there will be very many difficulties in the enforcement of this measure; but my difficulty primarily is one of avoiding tyranny being exercised over the village people.

श्री रामचन्द्र उपाध्याय : सभापति जी, मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूं मगर चन्द अलफाज अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। पं० ठाकुर दास भार्गव जी ने इस मुर्दे में जान डालने की कोशिश की है। इसमें शक नहीं कि मुर्दे में अगर जान आ जाय तो सारा देश इसका स्वागत करेगा। लेकिन इसमें मुझे दो तीन बातों की ओर ध्यान दिलाना है।

पहिली बात जो पं० ठाकुरदास भार्गव ने चाही है कि मेल की उम्र १८ साल के बजाय २० साल कर दी जाय। मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि इस उम्र को सारे समाज के लिए नियत करना एक बहुत कठिन काम है। यह हो सकता है कि शहरों में लिखे पढे लोग इस उम्र को २० के बजाय २१ वर्ष भी मान लें और शायद वह शहरों में कामयाब भी हो सकें। लेकिन देहातों में जहां पर पढने और लिखने का बहुत कम इन्तजाम है और जहां पर ज्यादातर जनता बे-पढी होती है वहां पर यह कहा जाय कि वह २० साल तक शादी करने तक के लिए इन्तजार करें बहुत ही नामुमकिन बात है। मैं समझता हूं कि पंजाब में भी इसी तरह की दिक्कत का सामना पं० ठाकुरदास महसूस करते होंगे। इसलिए तमाम मुल्क के लिए १८ साल से २० साल उम्र रख देना यह बिल्कुल नामुमकिन चीज है। अगर आप इस मुर्दे को फिर से उठाना चाहते हैं तो मैं आपसे कहता हूं कि इस समय उम्र १८ साल ही रहने दी जाय। अगर आपको उसको उठाना ही है तो उसको धीरे धीरे बढाइए। जिस तरह से हमारा देश धीरे धीरे तरक्की कर रहा है उसी तरह से इसको भी बढाइए।

मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर भी दिलाना चाहता हूं कि हमारे समाज में इस बात का पता लगाने के लिए कि किस शख्स की उम्र कितनी है, हमारी सरकार के पास कोई साधन नहीं है। जैसा कि आप अदालतों में देखते हैं कि किसी की उम्र को साबित करने का पहिला तरीका यह होता है कि मेडिकल सार्टीफिकेट से उसकी उम्र साबित की जाती है। अगर मेडिकल सार्टीफिकेट का ही सहारा लेना है तो मैं कह सकता हूं और साबित कर सकता हूं कि पं० ठाकुर दास भार्गव की उम्र ३० साल की है। तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह साधन बिल्कुल ग़लत है।

दूसरा तरीका यह हो सकता है कि बर्थ और डेथ का रजिस्टर रखा जाय। मगर जब तक मुल्क भर में ऐसे रजिस्टर न रखे जायं यह उपाय भी बेकार है। तीसरा तरीका यह है कि जबानी शहादत हासिल की जाय। मगर इससे भी हमें कामयाबी हासिल नहीं हो सकती है। २० साल की उम्र रख देने पर हर शख्स इस कानून का मुजरिम होगा और एक दूसरे से हमदर्दी रखेगा और कभी गवाही नहीं देगा।

[श्री रामचन्द्र उपाध्याय]

अगर हमको इस चीज में कामयाबी हासिल करनी है तो हमको सारे देश में इसके लिए प्रचार करना होगा और पब्लिक ओपीनियन बनानी होगी। लोगों को यह बतलाना होगा कि वह कम उम्र में अपने लड़के और लड़कियों की शादी न करें। हमको शहरों में और गांवों में जाकर लोगों को इसके बारे में शिक्षित करना होगा कि हमें जल्दी शादी नहीं करनी चाहिए। मैं इस राय के खिलाफ हूं कि इस कानून को काबिल दस्तन्दाजी पुलिस न बनाया जाय। फिर तो कानून बनाना ही बेकार है। यदि कानून का कुछ असर हो सकता है तो उसके काबिल दस्तन्दाजी पुलिस बनाने से ही हो सकता है।

लेकिन मैं थोड़ी देर के लिए यह भी मान लेता हूं कि इसे काबिल दस्तन्दाजी आप सब मान लेते हैं। लेकिन पुलिस का साथ कौन देगा, साथ तो गांव के लोग ही देंगे। और अगर गांव के लोग या शहरों के लोग ऐसा साथ देने के लिए तैयार नहीं होते हैं तो उसकी क्या वक़त होती है। तो हर हालत में जब कि लोग इस चीज़ के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं तो आप इस मसले को और पूरी तरह से विचार कर लें, और १८ साल से २० साल बढ़ाने पर ज़ोर न दें।

हिन्दू कोड बिल के बहस के वक्त भी ऐसे बहुत से सवाल आए थे जिससे साफ मालूम पड़ता है कि लोग अपने दफ्तरों में बैठे हुए समाज सुधार करने के लिए तैयार हो जाते हैं। लेकिन अम्बेदकर साहब ने गांव में जाकर लोगों की मेंटेलिटी को नहीं देखा, देश की मेंटेलिटी को नहीं देखा कि देश क्या चाहता है और क्या नहीं चाहता है। देश किस चीज़ के लिए तैयार है और किस चीज़ के लिए नहीं है। मगर भार्गव साहब ने तो देखा है इसलिए मैं ठाकुरदास भार्गव साहब के साथ होते हुए भी यह कहता हूं ऐसी चीजों से पूरा काम चलने वाला नहीं है जब तक कि लोग इसमें साथ देने के लिए तैयार न हों।

अन्त में मैं आपका ध्यान, ठाकुरदास भार्गव साहब का ध्यान, इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं कि यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई, शायद वह समझा सकें, कि नाबालिग की डेफ़ीनीशन में बताया है कि " a minor is a person under eighteen years of age" और चाइल्ड की डेफ़ीनीशन में वह चाहते हैं कि यह बजाय १८ के २० साल कर दी जाय। लेकिन इस तरह से तो चाइल्ड मेंजर हो जायगा। इस चीज़ को मैं अभी तक नहीं समझ पाया। इसलिए इस चीज़ को अगर वह ज़रूरी समझें तो उसमें तरमीम कर लें और अगर ज़रूरी न हो तो वह मुझे इसको समझा दें।

(*English translation of the above speech.*)

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya (United State of Matsya): Sir, I welcome this Bill but wish to submit a few things. Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava has tried to infuse life in this dead thing. There is no doubt that if this dead thing were to come to life again then the whole country will welcome it. But I have to draw attention towards one or two points.

The first point relates to Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava's request for raising the age of consent from 18 years to 20 years. I would submit that it is very difficult to enforce this age limit for the entire society. It is just possible that the educated persons living in urban areas may agree to have 21 years instead of 20 years and it is also possible that they may be successful in the urban areas. But in the rural areas, where there are meagre arrangements for education and where the masses are generally illiterate, if it is asked of them to wait for 20 years for even performing the marriages then it would be highly improper to do so. I think Pandit Thakur Das must be experiencing and facing such difficulties in Punjab also. Therefore, it is highly improper to raise the age limit from 18 to 20 years for the whole country. If you wish to give life to this carcass then I ask you to let the age remain 18 years for the present. If you have to raise the age limit then increase it gradually. As our country is making gradual progress in the same way raise the age limit gradually. I wish to draw your attention towards this point also that our Government has got no means at her disposal to ascertain the age of a certain individual of the society. As you see in the law courts that in order to prove a certain person's age the first method that is adopted is that the age is proved on the basis of a medical certificate. If we have to fall back upon the medical certificate then I can say and prove that Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's age is 30 years. So I think that this method is totally wrong.

Another method can be that a Births and Deaths register be maintained. But unless such registers are maintained throughout the whole country this method also is useless. The third method is that age may be established on the basis of oral evidence. But we cannot achieve success by this method also. By enforcing this 20 years age limit every one will become an offender under this law and so he will have sympathy with others and will never come forward to give evidence.

If we have to achieve success in this matter then we will have to give it the widest possible publicity throughout the whole country and will have to create public opinion. We will have to ask the people not to marry their sons and daughters in young age. We will have to go to towns and villages and educate the masses not to perform early marriages. I oppose the opinion that the offences committed against this law may not be made cognisable. Then it is useless to pass such laws if the law can have any effect then it can have effect only by making the offences committed under the law cognisable.

But for a little while I assume that you all agree to make it cognisable. But who would side with the police? The villagers are expected to give help. If the people living in towns and villages are not prepared to give help then what respect the law can command? Then in every case if the people are not prepared for this thing then you should give this matter a thorough consideration and do not press for this raising of the age limit from 18 to 20 years.

During the discussions on Hindu Code Bill many such points came up which clearly showed that the people get ready to introduce social reforms while sitting in their offices. But Dr. Ambedkar has not studied the mentality of the people living in rural areas. He has not studied the mentality of the country. He has not studied what the country wants or what the country does not want; for what things the country is prepared and for what things the country is not prepared? But Shree Bhargava has seen these things. Therefore, I, in spite of supporting Shree Thakur Das Bhargava, submit that such schemes cannot work successfully so long the people are not prepared to give them a lending hand.

In the end I wish to draw the attention of Shri Thakur Das Bhargava towards the fact that I have not been able to follow this point, perhaps he might

[Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya]

be able to explain it, that the definition of a minor has been laid down as follows, "a minor is a person under 18 years of age," and he wants that while defining a child the age limit be raised from 18 years to 20 years. But in this way a child will become a major. As yet I have not been able to understand this thing. Therefore if he thinks it to be of vital importance then he may make changes and if the changes be unnecessary then kindly explain to me this anomaly.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I welcome this Bill. I supported it before its reference to Select Committee. I am glad it has come through the Select Committee with modifications, except in one or two respects, which must be acceptable to the House. Even with regard to this there should be some difference of opinion and the honourable the Mover may consider the suggestions made by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Before coming to that, I shall explain why the provisions of this Bill increase the age limit in the case of boys from 19 to 20 and in the case of girls from 14 to 15 for marriage. This follows the Manu Code. Manu said that no male should marry before the age of 32. So far as girls are concerned, he felt that 15 would be a proper age. By the time she begets a child she should be 17 or 18. There will then be a number of children and they will be strong children. Our conception on marriage was for the purpose of not satisfying sexual desires but more for the purpose of creating a progeny for ourselves—a progeny healthy and strong so that they may take charge of the administration and continue the race. (*Interruptions*). Yes, take charge of the Government and all departments of public life and continue the race and the line. Therefore it is not merely a desire of one or the other coming together, however big or incompetent or incapable. No one has got a right to leave a liability behind him or her so that they may have to be maintained by the State or society. It is for that purpose that rules have been made restricting marriage. Monogamy is permitted and bigamy is prevented. Manu feels that a man before 30 will produce strong children, whereas if a woman is married late, she may not be able to produce children at all. Therefore he prescribes that 15 may be a proper age, or it may be even 18 but not after 18. Now 15 is not a bad age. The country has reconciled itself to whatever objections there may have been to raising the age to 14. But after the Sarda Act, marriages are celebrated with girls even at 17 or 18 because it is difficult to get bridegrooms. But before the Sarda Act there were no spinsters. It was the obligation of the parents, and in their absence of the eldest member of the family that the girl was married before she attained the age of puberty. That we should not have child marriages and create child mothers is a wholesome principle. Fourteen years of age was fixed as the age then. Therefore, 15 is not an upper limit. As a matter of fact girls today do not even get married at the age of 15. I have only one objection to making this offence a cognizable offence. It might be though I do not know, that Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava might have referred to the Deputy Speaker as having said that it must be made cognizable.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I refer you to your speech at page 2822.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not disputing that statement. I do not say that I remember it. But I am suggesting this course. In this Bill imprisonment has been made a compulsory punishment. Before this Bill was introduced it is quite possible that I might have said so. I did want to make this Act rigorous. It should not be left to the individual sweet will to come in and blackmail and get some money. Nowadays people pay bridegroom prices and set apart marriage expenses. Before 13, the girl is given in wedlock. The marriage is not invalid in the old law nor in the amendment; but

but persons are liable for punishment. But what is the punishment? It is Rs. 1,000. A man who is incapable of finding Rs. 1,000 is not going to pay. A man who can pay will set this apart for marriage expenses. I agree that some kind of imprisonment should be included so that the father can go to jail the moment he gets his daughter married. But I have some hesitation in making it a cognizable offence.

My friend, Thakur Das Bhargava, knows what is a cognizable offence. It is only the person who is interested who informs the police, of course in murder cases it is the duty of the police to go into the case but not so in the case of ascertaining the age. The girl may be tall and one will not be able to say whether she is 14 or 15. So it will not be easy to come to a conclusion even if the case is a cognizable one. The party who is interested will have to invoke the aid of the police and the police will then have an enquiry. My honourable friend, I hope, will consider this in the Bill. They say that it is still open to the party to file a complaint with the magistrate. But we do want to see that any Act passed by the Assembly is effective and does not get useless. Therefore, provision is made by way of imprisonment. Should we place one more weapon in the hands of officers? I suggest that it must be left to society at large.

So far as child marriage is concerned in the upper classes, I can talk with some knowledge and experience for my part of the country. With respect to Northern India, I do not know. Child marriages in our part of the country is a thing of the past. No child marriage takes place. We are coming to a stage where the girl will insist on the father going and getting a husband for her because after she has waited for 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 years, she knows what it is to be a mother and therefore she insists on getting married. Therefore it is that child marriages in upper classes have disappeared. So far as lower classes are concerned, I do not think making it cognizable will be useful. There must be societies or associations organized for propaganda in villages. It must be left to them to put up proper cases before the Magistrate and to bring such cases to the notice of the Courts. So far as the provision making this a cognizable offence is concerned, I do not like that it should be so.

Then wisely, in the Select Committee, that clause saying that a man of 45 ought not to marry a girl below 18 has been done away with. It is said that our Ancients made experiments or researches in this field also. I do not want to repeat the *shloka* of Manu. It is to this effect that as you breed particular kinds of horses for racing and bulls for stud-bulls, likewise when men and women come together at the right time they will produce good children. If from a particular age a woman may not be able to beget children, and 45 is not a age for a man to marry because he would become impotent I may say that this provision has been given up in Select Committee and I hope my honourable friend will not threaten us with another Bill. It is for that reason that I was not prepared to give any preference to his Bill.

So far as registration of marriages is concerned, there is a provision in the Hindu Code, and if it is necessary we can certainly adopt that.

As regards the provision for preventing consummation, it is an idle dream. I do not know why Pandit Bhargava insists upon preventing the husband and wife from coming together or talking to each other. It would be an impossible feat.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is a misconception. I am not standing between the husband and the wife if the age in both the Bills is the same, viz., 15.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am glad that the Select Committee has not allowed this provision for preventing the consummation of marriage. I take exception only to this that the offence ought not to be made cognizable. Otherwise it is a wholesome measure. It is not too early. We have given

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

sufficient time to the country and to the community as a whole to get accustomed to this. In the usual course 15 years is the age already in vogue and therefore the provision is not oppressive. As regards punishment imprisonment has been made compulsory and it is a sufficient deterrent. I would request the Mover of the Bill not to insist upon making it a cognizable offence in the Bill. Sir, I support the motion for consideration.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : मैं बाबू ठाकुर दासजी के क़ानूनी मसविदे का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं यह समझता हूं कि अगर इस कानून को एक डैड लैटर नहीं बनाना है तो इसके लिये निहायत ज़रूरी है कि आप इसको कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स करार दें। इस सिलसिले में यह कहा गया है कि कुछ सोसायटियां इस कानून को कामयाब बनाने में मदद कर सकती हैं। मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूं कि जब शारदा ऐक्ट पास हुआ था तो तमाम देश के अन्दर बड़ा जोश था। मेरे पिता चौ० मातुराम जी ने शारदा ऐक्ट के तहत देश में सबसे पहले एक आदमी के खिलाफ़ दावा दायर किया था। उनके दिल में भी बड़ा जोश था जैसा कि आज मेरे दूसरे भाई समझते हैं, उनका भी यही ख्याल था कि कोई सार्वजनिक सोसायटी की मदद कारगर हो सकती। लेकिन एक केस लड़ने के बाद ही वह इस नतीजे को पहुंचे थे कि यह ख्याल बिल्कुल कारगर ख्याल नहीं था और इससे कोई फ़ायदा नहीं था।

दूसरी बात मैं एक देहात के रहने वाले की हैसियत से आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर देहात में आपको इस क़ानून को कार्य रूप दिलाना है तो यह बिल्कुल ज़रूरी है कि यह कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स हो। देहात में एक किस्म का समझौता हो जाता है जिसके कारण और तक़रीबन, जैसा कि बाबूजी ने बताया है, ४० परसेंट बिलो एज (below age) शादियां होती हैं। यह बात बिल्कुल दुरुस्त है। वह इसलिये कि हर एक गांव में आपस में देहात में कुछ इस किस्म का रिश्ता होता है कि गांव की तक़सीम पानों में हो जाती है और पानों की ठोलों में। और उनके आपस के रिलेशन्स होते हैं। अगर फ़र्ज़ कीजिये कि मैं अपने लड़के और लड़की की शादी ठीक उमर के बाद करता हूं लेकिन मेरे ठोले का दूसरा भाई हो सकता है कि ग़लती करे। तो उस ठोले के भाई की हैसियत की वजह से मैं स बात के लिये मजबूर होता हूं कि गांव में अगर दूसरा या तीसरा आदमी कोई ग़लती करता है तो मैं उनके खिलाफ़ दावा दायर न करूं क्यों कि मुझे ख्याल है कि मेरे भाई मुझे तंग कर देंगे कुनबा सामने आजायगा। इसलिये अगर इसको कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स नहीं बनाइयेगा तो यह नामुमकिन

चीज़ है कि यह कानून देहात में कारामद साबित होसके । एक बात यह भी है कि कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स में पुलिस ही वकील होती है और वकील का खर्चा पुलिस के जिम्मे होता है। नानकागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स में जो आदमी खबर देता है उसीको अपना वकील करना पड़ता है और तमाम खर्चा उसी को बर्दाश्त करना होता है । इसलिये आप ख्याल कर सकते हैं कि जब किसी आदमी को कोई आर्थिक इंटरेस्ट न हो तो कोई क्यों अपने आप से वकील खड़ा करके किसी के खिलाफ़ मुक़दमा लड़ेगा । इसलिये मैं समझता हूं कि, जैसा कि सभापति महोदय अपने अपने इलाके के बारे में बताया कि आज कुछ जातियों के पढ़ेलिखे आदमियों के लिये इसकी कोई खास आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि यह तो शादियां इस ऐज के बाहर ही करते हैं । यह बात बिल्कुल सही है, उनके लिये इसकी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है । लेकिन अगर कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स की आवश्यकता है तो उन्हीं के लिये है कि जो आज तक इस चीज पर राजी नहीं हुए हैं । और उन्हीं के उपर इसका असर पड़ेगा । यह अच्छा है कि देश में इसके लिये एटमासफ़ीयर पैदा किया जाय । लेकिन बहुत सारे ऐसे भी कायदे और क़ानून बने हैं जिनके बारे में एटमासफ़ीयर पहले नहीं बनाया गया था । इसलिये आपको तो यह देखना है कि यहां पर जो यह क़ानून है इससे देश का फ़ायदा होता है या नहीं । अगर देश का फ़ायदा होता है तो उसके अन्दर एक दिन के लिये भी देर नहीं करनी चाहिये । बल्कि सच तो यह है कि आम देहातियों के यह समझ में ही नहीं आता और न उनको पता होता है कि कागनिज़ेबल या नानकागनिज़ेबल क्या होती क्या है । गांव में तो यह होता है कि जब किसी छोटी उम्र के लड़के या लड़की की शादी ऐसे समय होती है जब कि वहां थानेदार भी हो या मैजिस्ट्रेट भी हो और उनको कोई रोकता नहीं और न उनको कोई सज़ा देता है तो वे इसको बड़ा मज़ाक सा समझते हैं क्यों कि यह इसको तो समझता ही नहीं कि यह कोई जुर्म है जब तक यह कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स न हो तब तक पुलिस दस्तन्दाज़ी नहीं कर सकती । इसलिये मैं यह समझता हूं कि अगर आप यह चाहते हैं कि यह क़ानून आनर हो, इसका कोई खास मतलब निकल सके और यह लाभ लोगों तक पहुंचे तो इसको ज़रूर कागनिज़ेबल आफ़ेन्स करार देना चाहिये ।

आयु के बारे में जैसा कि मेरे एक राजस्थानी भाई ने कहा मैं उनसे सहमत नहीं हूं । मैं समझता हूं कि १८ या १९ या २० की आयु कोई बहुत ज्यादा आयु नहीं है । बीस की आयु लड़के के लिये और १५ की आयु लड़की के लिये अवश्य होनी चाहिये । इसलिये मैं बाबूजी के बिल का पूरे तौर पर समर्थन करता हूं और मैं समझता हूं कि इसकी अजहद ज़रूरत है । और जो कागनिज़ेबल और नानकागनिज़ेबल की बात है उसके लिये यह बहुत ज़रूरी

[चौधरी रणवीर सिंह]

है कि यह कागनिजेबुल हो । अगर आप चाहते हैं कि देहात के अन्दर लड़के लड़कियों की शादियां जो छोटी उम्र में होती हैं उनको आप रोकना चाहते हैं तो वह तभी रोक सकते हैं जब आप इसको कागनिजेबल आफेन्स करार दें ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): I have stood up to support the Bill moved by Babu Thakur Dasji. I think that if you would not have this law turned into a dead letter it is very essential that you should declare the breach of this law to be a cognizable offence. It has been said in this connection that some societies could help in making this legislation effective. I would like to remind you that when the Sarda Act was passed there was a great deal of enthusiasm in the country. My father, Chaudhri Matu Ramji, was the very first in the country to institute a case against a person under the Sarda Act. He too had great zeal for it in the same way as some of my brothers have it today. He too was of the view that the help of some public society could prove effective. But, after having fought just one case, he came to the conclusion that this idea of his was not at all right and that it was all futile.

The other thing that I would say to you in the capacity of a villager is this that if you would like to have this law enforced in villages it is most essential that any contravention of this law be made a cognizable offence. A kind of compromise is struck in villages whereby, as stated by Babuji, nearly 40 per cent. of the marriages solemnised are below age. This is quite correct. It so happens that in the countryside a kind of relationship exists amongst the people living in a village that the village comes to be divided into *panas* and the *panas* into *thholas* and they are all inter-related. If, for instance, I solemnise the marriage of my son or daughter after he or she has attained the proper age it might so transpire that another member of my *thhola* does the wrong thing. Now, as a member of that *thhola* I am under a constraint not to institute proceedings when another person in the village acts wrongly because I realise that the members of my brotherhood would make things difficult for me and that the entire family would stand up against me. Hence, if you do not make it a cognizable offence it is impossible for this law to work effectively in the villages. Moreover in the case of a cognizable offence the police itself is the prosecutor and the expenses incidental to the prosecution are borne by the police. In the case of a non-cognizable offence the person who lodges the information has to engage his own counsel and he alone has to stand the entire expense. You can, therefore, very well imagine that when a person has no pecuniary interest there is no reason why he should engage counsel at personal expense and prosecute a case against another person. You, Sir, have stated with respect to your own constituency that there is no particular need of it in the case of the educated members of certain communities, because they normally perform their marriages after a certain age-limit. It is true they have no need for it. If there is any need of the offence under this law being made cognisable it is for just those people who have not so far been able to reconcile themselves to its provisions and it is they upon whom it will have its effect. It is good that an atmosphere be created for it in the country but a number of laws and rules have been made already for which no atmosphere was created in advance. Hence, all that you have to see in the present case is whether or not this legislation will be conducive to the good of the country and if you find that it is so you must not defer it for a single day. The truth is that an ordinary villager does not know and is incapable of understanding the distinction between a cognizable and a non-cognizable offence. What happens in villages is this that when the marriage of a young boy or girl takes place under such circumstances that a sub-inspector is present or even a magistrate is present but

nobody checks them nor takes them to task they are inclined to regard it as great fun because they are unable to understand that it is an offence and unless it is a cognizable offence the police cannot intervene. Hence, I think that if you want that this law should be honoured, that it should serve a certain purpose and that the people should be benefited thereby the offence under it must be made a cognizable one.

With regard to age I do not agree with what has been stated by a brother from Rajasthan. I think that 18 or 19 or 20 is not much of an age. The minimum age for the boy must be twenty and that for the girl fifteen. Hence I give my full support to Babuji's Bill and I feel that it is badly needed. As for the controversy about the offence under it being made cognizable or non-cognizable it is imperative that it be made cognizable. If you want to put a stop to the practice of child marriage in villages you can do so only if you make it a cognizable offence.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, I heartily support this Bill which has been moved by my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargave. Our learned Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has voiced his objection to making the offence cognizable. As one who is very intimately connected with the masses in the villages and who has seen the havoc caused by early marriages, I feel that while there is substance in what Dr. Pattabhi has said we have to weigh two things. On one side there is the havoc which has been brought on account of this Act remaining a dead letter and early marriages continuing as they have continued so far and on the other there is the police having the chance of taking vengeance or using this weapon to make money from ignorant people. Between these two evils we have to make a choice. I personally feel that we cannot for very long postpone reforms just because the police who have to enforce them are corrupt. I think we are making efforts to make the police less corrupt and see that they are fit to carry out the laws of a free country. Very soon, I think, the police will improve and we will have a police of which we will be proud. I am afraid the present police is still the old police and we cannot expect the leopards to change their spots in a year or so. So when I have to choose between two evils, to see that this Act remains a dead letter or to see that the people are harassed by unscrupulous police, I still choose that this Bill should be passed as it is and this evil of early marriage is out-rooted. In 1929 this Act known as Sarda Act was passed. Twenty years have passed and if you see the statistics the number of prosecutions are very few.

As my honourable friend Ranbir Singh Choudhury was pointing out if this section relating to the offence being cognizable is taken away from this Bill who will care to spend the money and file a suit in a court and then pursue it in a court, making an enemy of the person who might be an influential person in the village and entering into a life-long feud? None will like to do it. I do not think there are men like my friend Pandit Bhargava in every village who will pursue the thing for twenty years whatever happens to them. Normally such persons do not exist in the villages. I therefore feel that the time has come when this offence must be made cognizable. Even in those cases wherein the police may harass people I think it will have a good effect in this way. The villagers are ignorant and this Act will not reach them. When one or two cases arise and when some unscrupulous police officer harasses one parent who has married his daughter at an early age then the result will at least be that in that locality and in at least hundred neighbouring villages nobody will dare to marry his daughter at an early age. So far the Act has been a dead letter. People are aware of the consequences but nobody cares. So even when an unscrupulous officer harasses a parent—even though the motive may not be good—the result will be that in that whole area, in that tehsil and at least in hundred neighbouring village nobody will dare to do it. For a year or two there will be bad cases, there will be cases where parents are the victims of vengeance. Still

[Prof Shibban Lal Saksena.]

I think that after a year or two people will become self-consicious and they will not marry their daughters at an early age. When once they come to know that if they do so it will result in their being landed into jail then the evil will be ecoted out.

I personally feel that the bealth of the nation is more important than anything else and I hope this Bill which has now come to the stage of being passed will be passed today. It will be a great day in the annals of this country when this Bill is finally passed and I hope that it will be passed as it is. The learned doctor has warned us that we cannot ignore the warnings of elders. Still I feel that young men as we are we do not want that this reform should wait for long. I would rather take the risk of unscrupulous police harassing some people. I think it will put a great responsibility upon people to see that nobody harasses people unnecessarily. People will come out with such instances; when police harass people there will then be occasion to pursue those police officers who misuse the provisions of the Act, who try to eke out money by such things. And probably Government with its authority will be able to see that the police is not able to harass people and in a year or two this danger will go away. I therefore think that this Bill must be passed as it is.

If this important provision is taken away then the fate of this Act will be the same as was the fate of the Sarda Act and it will be a dead letter. Then the twenty years' labour which my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has put in will be of no avail. I therefore feel that we should not be afraid of unscrupulousness of the police. We are hoping that soon the police will also change; we are also hoping that soon the mass consciousness will also rise. Then the people cannot be so easily harassed by the police and the police will be afraid of harassing them. Seeing things as they are, hoping that soon people will become strong enough to resist the unscrupulous actions of the police, hoping that the police will become better in our Free India, and also hoping that people will also learn the utility of this Act and will not insist on marrying their daughters at an early age I think that this should be passed as it is. There is no danger in making the offence cognizable and we should not be afraid of police unscrupulousness. If we fear police unscrupulousness we must not do so many things: we must not have rationing and all these other things. But we do all those things knowing that the police is unscrupulous and there is corruption. To say that merely because the police is unscrupulous we should not pass this great Act which is so essential for the health of the nation is not I think proper. I therefore think, although I have to disagree with elders like our Congress President and yourself, Sir, that the hope which inspires my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, myself and other friends who have supported the Bill will see to it that people are not harassed.

My own feeling is that the villager has changed a lot of late. There is the Panchayat Act and with the Panchayats being formed and all these things coming into existence the police will not be able to have the sway over the villagers and harass them with this measure over their heads. We must take a bold stand and we must not whittle down this Act to become wholly useless and ineffective. We should pass this Bill as it is.

I hope that the warnings which our elders have given here will only help us to see that there is no harassment of people and we might have a review of the cases where people are harassed by the police and punish such officers so that they may not do such things in future. This is possible and it is not a thing which cannot be surmounted. But if we take out this section I am sure nobody will go to the court to file a case against the offender and enter into a family feud in the village. The provision is very good and the Bill must be passed as it is.

The age sought to be raised is not very high. It is only fifteen years. I think that even this is low for a country like ours and I think that sixteen years should be the minimum age for girls to be married. I hope that this fifteen years will be passed without any difficulty. I also hope that the Bill will be passed into an Act today and that the great efforts of my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava who has pursued it with such tenacity over a period of twenty years will be successful. Sir, I support the Bill.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, I heartily support the measure and congratulate my honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. This Child Marriage Restraint Act has a long history behind it. It was passed in the year 1929 in the fulfilment of a national need. At that time the Britishers were ruling in this country and we, Congressmen, under the leadership of our late lamented Pandit Motilal Nehru the Great were in the opposition. As a result of the combination of the Congress party and the Government party on this point the Bill was passed. At that time there was a great agitation in favour of the Bill and also some agitation against the Bill. The Bill was finally passed. But, Sir, as you know, and as everybody in the House knows, up till now this has remained a dead letter. It has done some good no doubt by way of propaganda. Sir, you said that in your part of the country it is a matter of pride to say that there is no child marriage in the upper class of society. So is the case, to some extent, in our part also, but that is only in a small circle where we have got education—in the rest of the society child marriage is going on as freely as before. So, this amendment is certainly necessary if we are anxious to stop this sort of marriage.

As regards making this a cognizable offence, you also have expressed your opinion, Sir, that this is not desirable at present simply because the police is not what it ought to be. If you are not going to make it cognizable, then there is no use of this amendment; not only that, I say there is no use of this Act itself. We may rather repeal this Act. In order to make this Act effective, we have to make it a cognizable offence. I know that the police up till now, instead of being a means of protection and service, is a means of oppression. I know it. But that is the case with the whole Government machinery, what to speak of the police? I am one of those who do not want to give any power to any Department of Government so long as it has not been declared to the satisfaction of the people that the Government is pure. I hold that view, and very strongly. But now, as the case is, we are doing so many things, we are passing so many Acts, we are giving so much power to the Government, then we may run this risk also. As others have stated, there may be some sort of difficulty to the people through the agency of the police only in one or two cases, but this will serve as a deterrent. As I said, up till now this Act has served in certain parts of the society as a propaganda; it has succeeded as a propaganda. But that propagnda, when this will be made a cognizable offence, will be very active propaganda, and I am sure child marriage will be a thing of the past. Therefore, I hold this view that it ought to be made a cognizable offence.

As regards the age, I agree. A male over 45 years of age must not marry a girl of 18 years of age. I am sorry I did not give any amendment to that, but I want, if you agree and the House agrees, that it ought to be so amended that a male above 45 years of age must not be allowed to marry a virgin. He may be allowed to marry a widow, there is no harm in that—rather it is necessary—but a male of the age of 45 and above must not be allowed to marry a virgin of any age.

With these words, I support this measure again, and I wish that this objection suggested by yourself and my friend Dr. Pattabhi should be overlooked and this measure should be unanimously passed.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू : वाचस्पति जी, मैं मित्रवर पंडित ठाकुरदास जी भार्गव के संशोधन का समर्थन करता हूं। लेकिन मैं पहले यह बात कहना चाहता हूं कि इसको चाइल्ड मैरेज रिस्ट्रेन्ट ऐक्ट कहने से अच्छा नहीं होगा। मैं तो कहता हूं कि इसे इन्डियन मैरेज ऐक्ट कहने से अच्छा होगा। जब हम चाइल्ड की उम्र इतनी बढ़ाते हैं तो यह चाइल्ड नहीं होता है। इसलिए मैं तो यह समझता हूं कि इसे चाइल्ड मैरेज ऐक्ट कहने से अच्छा नहीं होगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान में दो मत बराबर चले आते हैं। एक मत हैं कि सरकार जितनी समाज संस्कार की चीजें हैं उनमें हाथ न डाल। और एक मत है कि जब तक सरकार समाज सुधार का काम नहीं करेगी तब तक यह समाज उन्नति नहीं कर सकता। और इसीलिए हम देखते हैं कि गवर्नमेन्ट आगे का जो समाज था, और हिन्दू और मुसलमान समाज दोनों पर धीरे धीरे हाथ डाल रही है। क्योंकि यह जो मैरेज एज अभी बढ़ाई जाती है वह हिन्दू मुसलमान दोनों पर लागू होगी। इसलिए कोई ऐसा नहीं कह सकेगा कि मुसलमान का जो पर्सनल ला है, उसके ऊपर हाथ नहीं डाला या हिन्दू का जो पर्सनल ला है, उसके ऊपर हाथ नहीं डाला। गवर्नमेन्ट हाथ डालती है और धीरे धीरे वह समाज संस्कार के लिए कानून बनाए जाती है।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं कि एक मत ऐसा हो जाता है कि दुनियां में जैसे हिन्दुओं की जो विवाह की रीति है वह बहुत खराब है। लेकिन यह मत ठीक नहीं। क्योंकि मैं देखता हूं कि जहां बाल विवाह अब तक है, और था, उन सब जगहों में विवाह के दो तरीके थे। एक तो होता था निर्बंध जब लड़की लड़के की उम्र ठीक हो जाती थी तो उस वक्त उसकी रिमैरेज होती थी। यह तो मेरे अपने जीवन का अनुभव है। मेरी शादी तब हुई थी जब मैं दस बरस का था। लेकिन जो पहले विवाह की बात मैं कहता हूं वह विवाह है तो सही लेकिन असल में वह निर्बन्ध है -- हम लोग उसको निर्बन्ध कहते हैं। लेकिन उसके बाद जब उम्र ठीक हो जाती है उस वक्त एक व्यवस्था की जाती है, उसको हम रिमैरेज कहते हैं या पुनर्विवाह। यह विवाह जो है वह ठीक विवाह है। और इसी लिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोगों की जो पहले की रीति थी वह खराब थी ऐसा मैं नहीं कह सकूंगा खास कर उस टाइम को देखकर। अब हम लोगों का अपना हाल बदल गया है इसलिए हम दो विवाह, एक विवाह, और दूसरा

पुनर्विवाह नहीं रखना चाहते हैं। और इसी लिए हम आज मैरेज की एज जो है उसे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। मैं तो कहूंगा कि आप यह जो मैरेज की एज धीरे धीरे बढ़ाते हैं, उसमें और तेजी करने से अच्छा होगा। लड़की की उम्र सोलह बरस और लड़के की कम से कम पच्चीस होनी चाहिए। यही आदर्श विवाह होगा पहले तो हमारे यहां ऐसा था कि जो बच्चे गु कुल में जाते थे यह पच्चीस बरस की उम्र तक वहीं पढ़ते थे। उसको ब्रह्मचर्य अवस्था कहा करते थे। उसके बाद ही गृहस्थ आश्रम होता था। आज तो यह व्यवस्था मिट गई है। अब ब्रह्मचर्य आश्रम नहीं है। और हम लोगों ने पढ़ने का, शिक्षा का प्रबन्ध भी पूरा नहीं कर लिया है। अब १०० में थोड़ा पढ़े लिखे आदमी ज्यादा से ज्यादा १२ या १३ होते हैं और सब अनपढ़ हैं। तो हम तो इसे जल्द से जल्द करना चाहते हैं।

इसके साथ साथ मैं चाहता हूं कि गांव गांव में मौलिक शिक्षा होनी चाहिए। जब तक यह नहीं होगा तब तक हमारे मैरेज की एज ज्यादा बढ़ाने से असली प्रैक्टिकल मुसीबत आ जाती है, और वह मुसीबत यह है कि एक लड़के की उम्र शादी के लिए हो गई। बाप मा फ़िक्र में पड़े। लेकिन उनके लिए कुछ काम नहीं हैं। गांव में जितनी काटेज इन्डस्ट्रीज थीं यह सब टूट गई, तो वे बेचारे कैसे जीवन बितायं। इसलिए असली मुसीबत यह है। तो मैं चाहता हूं कि जैसे हम लोग कोशिश करते हैं कि मैरेज की एज बढ़ा दें, तो उसके साथ साथ हम लोगों को यह सोचना चाहिए कि गांव में हर एक तरफ जो इन्डस्ट्रीज हैं उनको भी बढ़ा देंगे, और एजुकेशन, प्राथमिक शिक्षा कम से कम बाध्यतामूलक कर देनी चाहिए। तब तो यह समाज ठीक से चलेगा, नहीं तो बहुत सी अनमैरिड मदर्स हो जायेंगी, और यह एक दूसरी समस्या पैदा होगी। इस समस्या का मुकाबिला भी होना चाहिए तभी हम उचित विवाह की उम्र बढ़ा सकेंगे। उस समस्या को हल करना चाहिए और उसे प्रैक्टिकल तरह से देखना चाहिए, जब तक हम इसको नहीं देखेंगे तब तक हम कुछ नहीं कर सकेंगे। आज हम मैरेज की एज बढ़ाते हैं लेकिन विलायत में मैरेज की जो एज आफ कन्सेन्ट है वह लड़के के लिए चौदह बरस है .....

मि० तजम्मुल हुसन : अब १४ बरस नहीं है, पच्चीस बरस है।

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू : ..... और लड़की के लिए १२ बरस। मैं कहना चाहता था कि यहां कोई इतनी कम उम्र में विवाह नहीं करते हैं हां कोई कोई तो हो सकते हैं लेकिन ज्यादातर १४ बरस और १२ बरस में शादी नहीं करता। ऐसा भी मैं कहता हूं कि हम लोगों का जो खयाल है कि लड़के की शादी करनी है आठ बरस में या नौ बरस में तो शायद उनके साथ भी यही होता है कि वह मैरेज

[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू]

की लाइफ़ लीड करते हैं, तो ऐसा नहीं है, यह झूठ बात है। जब तक लड़के की ज्यादा उम्र नहीं होती, जब तक लड़की की ज्यादा उम्र नहीं होती, तब तक दोनों को मिलने का मौका नहीं मिलता। मैं अपने जीवन को लेता हूं। मेरी एज जब अट्ठारह बरस की हुई तब तक मैंने स्त्री का मुंह भी नहीं देखा था। शादी तो हो गई थी। आप लोग जिसे मैरेज कहते हैं ऐसी मैरेज तो मेरी दस बरस की उम्र में हो गई थी, लेकिन मैंने तो स्त्री का मुंह भी नहीं देखा था। इसी लिए मैं कहता हूं कि यह हम लोगों का खयाल था कि जो निर्बन्ध मैरेज है जिसे हम लोग मैरेज कहते हैं और सैकेन्ड मैरेज जिसे हम रिमैरेज कहते थे, ऐसा दो विवाह नहीं रखेंगे। उसमें से एक हटा देंगे, दूसरा रखेंगे। और ठाकुर दास भार्गव जी लड़की की जितनी एज बढ़ाना चाहते हैं मैं उससे भी ज्यादा बढ़ा दूंगा। और लड़के की १८ बरस नहीं २५ बरस कर देनी चाहिए। यह मैं चाहता हूं। लेकिन साथ साथ उनको काम भी देना चाहिए और यह देखना चाहिए कि उनको कौन चीज देना चाहिए। जब तक यह नहीं होगा, तब तक देश की हालत बहुत खराब होती जायगी, ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है।

मैं और ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूं, सिर्फ़ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि हम लोगों का जो स्टैन्डर्ड आफ morality का आइडिया था वह अच्छा था और उसे और बढ़ना चाहिए। और इसी लिए काटेज इन्डस्ट्रीज और कम्पलसरी एजुकेशन को भी बढ़ाना चाहिए। जब हम गांव गांव में शिक्षा देंगे तभी लड़की की उम्र शादी के लिए बढ़ाना ठीक होगा। मैं केवल इतना ही चाहता हूं और भार्गव जी का जो संशोधन है मैं पूरे ज़ोर से उसका अनुमोदन करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Sir, I support the amending Bill brought forth by my friend Pandit Thakur Dasji Bhargava. But, I want to say, in the first instance, that it would not be proper to call it 'Child Marriage Restraint Act'. I should say it would be better to call it the 'Indian Marriage Act.' When we raise the age of a child so much he no longer remains a child. Hence, I think it would not be right to call it the 'Child Marriage Act.'

The other point is that there have always been two views in India. One view is that the Government should not interfere in matters pertaining to social tradition. The other view is that until the Government takes up the work of social reform this society cannot make any progress. Hence we find that the Government is gradually laying its hands on the old order of society—both Hindu and Muslim—because this raising of the age of marriage now proposed would apply to the Hindu and the Muslim equally, so that nobody will be able to say that the personal law of the Muslim or that of the Hindu has been left alone. The Government does interfere and slowly and gradually goes on enacting legislation for social reform.

I want to say one thing more. There is a view current that the Hindu custom pertaining to marriage is very bad. This view is, however, incorrect because I find that wherever the custom of child marriage existed or still exists the marriage ceremony has been divided into two parts. There was, in the first instance. *Nirbandh*, and when the boy and the girl attained proper age their remarriage was then performed. This is my own life's experience. My marriage took place when I was ten years old. The first marriage that I have spoken of is marriage no doubt but in reality it is *Nirbandh*—we people call it *Nirbandh*. When, however, subsequently the couple attain the proper age a ceremony is gone into which we call remarriage or *Punarvivah*. This latter kind of marriage is the marriage proper. That is why I want to say that I should not describe our former custom of marriage as bad, especially in view of those times. Now that our conditions of life have changed we no longer want to have two marriage ceremonies, *viz.*, the marriage and the remarriage and that is why today we want to raise the age of marriage. I should even say that it would be better if you go a little quicker in this age-raising for marriage which you are now doing so slowly. The age of the girl should be sixteen and that of the boy at least twenty-five. That would be the ideal marriage. Our ancient practice used to be that those children who went to study at the Gurukul stayed there for study up to the age of twenty-five. It was known as the period of *Bramacharya*. It was followed by *Grihastha Ashram*. That system is no more. The *Bramacharya Ashram* does not exist any longer. We have not yet been able to make proper arrangements for education. At present the percentage of moderately literate persons is at the most 12 or 13; the rest are all illiterate. We should like to increase the speed.

I also desire that along with this there should be arrangements for basic education in each and every village. Unless we do that we would have to come up against a practical difficulty by raising the age of marriage. That difficulty is this. A girl has reached the age for marriage. The parents are feeling worried but they have no work. Whatever cottage industries existed in the villages have all broken down. How should those poor people then make their living? This, then, is the real handicap. I therefore, want that just as we are making efforts to raise the age of marriage we should also, alongside with it, find the ways and means to develop the village industries on all sides. And, we should make education, at least primary education, compulsory. If that is done our society would go on smoothly; otherwise, there would be a number of unmarried mothers and this would give rise to another problem. This problem must also be reckoned with for then alone shall we properly be in a position to raise the age for marriage. That problem must be solved and it must be viewed from a practical standpoint, for unless we do that we shall not be able to do anything. Today we are raising the age for marriage but the age of consent for marriage in Europe is fourteen in the case of a boy.....

Mr. Tajamul Husain (Bihar: Muslim): It is no longer fourteen but twenty-five.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: .....and 12 in the case of a girl. I mean to say that no marriages are performed there at such an early age. There may be a case here and there but generally they do not marry below the ages of fourteen and twelve. I would also say that when we say that a boy is to be married at the age of eight or nine it does not imply that he is intended to lead a married life. Until the boy attains a higher age and until the girl attains a higher age the two are not given the opportunity to come together. Take my own case. I did not even see the face of my wife until I had attained the age of eighteen. The marriage had been solemnised. What you people call marriage had, in my case, been performed when I was just ten years old, but I had not as much as even glanced at my wife's face. That is why I say that we people used to think that we would not have those two kinds of marriage, that is the *Nirbandha* marriage, which we called the 'marriage' and the second

[Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu]

marriage which we called the 'remarriage', that we would abolish one of them and retain the other. I should like to raise the age in the case of a girl even higher than is proposed by Thakur Das Bhargavaji. And the age in the case of a boy should not be eighteen but should be made twenty-five. This is how I would have it. But, along with this, they must also be provided with work and it must also be seen what work they are provided with. Until that is done the conditions in the country would go from bad to worse. This is my belief.

I want to say no more but would say this much that the idea or standard of morality which we people possessed was good and should be improved upon. For the same reason impetus should also be given to cottage industries and compulsory education. It would be proper to raise the girls' age for marriage only when we extend the benefits of education to each and every village. That is all that I want and I give my full support to Bhargavaji's amending Bill.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Sir, I have risen to support the Bill, although this Bill, in my opinion, does not go far enough.

At present, the marriageable age for a boy is 18. This Bill wishes to raise the age from 18 to 20. The marriageable age for a girl is 14 and that is sought to be raised to 16. In my opinion, Sir, there should be no marriage of a minor. A girl of 15 is undoubtedly a minor. I think it is absolutely wrong for the guardians to hand over their wards, whether a niece or a daughter, in marriage to somebody else whom she has never seen, whose age she does not know, whose age may be 50 and she may be only 15 years of age. Marriage should be a civil contract between a man and a woman. The man should choose his partner in life and the woman should choose her partner in life. Why should a third party, whether he be the father or grandfather, interfere in a matter like this, I fail to see.

The first thing that we should do, now that we are independent, is that we must give education to our boys and girls. A girl of 18 or 16 cannot be said to be mature in mind although she may be mature in body on account of the climate of this country. Let her have all the training that is requisite for a housewife and that training, in my opinion, cannot come before the age of 21. When the time comes, I will surely send my amendment that the age of the girls should not be under 21 and the age of the boy should not be under 25.

What do we find in foreign countries? Of course, we were at one time very advanced and cultured; but, nowadays we find the cultured people are across the seas. We have just now heard that in England a girl of twelve can marry. As far as I know, Sir,—I know because I am a lawyer—in England, a girl under 16 cannot have sexual intercourse even with her consent with a man. This is a serious offence and the man is liable to penal servitude for a number of years. Although the marriageable age in England is 16, no one will ever think of marrying at that age. A girl under 21 is treated as a mere child. No man will ever marry a woman unless the man is perfectly satisfied that he can support his wife and children. But, what happens here? There is a father and he has a girl of 15 or 16 years. He finds a boy of 20 or 30 years or something like that and gives her in marriage. The boy may be in the school and may not be able to pass his matriculation examination. He cannot get into Government service or take to trade. What would happen to his wife and children? He cannot support them.

This is a thing which we cannot now have in our country. We must become a great nation. We have no doubt about it that India is going to be the biggest country and a very powerful country; but it may take a little time. We

must have reforms; I am always in favour of reforms. I would therefore appeal to my orthodox friends, 'do not be so conservative now'. It was all right when we were under the rule of foreigners; we have forgotton our nationality. Now that we are independent, let us be free from everything that is bad. Do not give your girls in marriage. Give her education and training to become good housewives. Let her select her husband. I want she should be 21 years of age before marriage. She must be thoroughly educated so as to be able to choose her own partner in life. That is what we should do in India.

My next point is this. The Bill seeks to amend that instead of a fine in case of conviction, there should be simple imprisonment and fine. I think this should be done. A fine is not sufficient. There are rich people. They are not afraid of a fine; but they are afraid of imprisonment, even if it is simple imprisonment. If they are to pay a fine only, what does it matter. They can pay the fine and get their daughters married when they are very young. I say, Sir, that this amendment should be accepted, even though it is simple imprisonment.

Lastly, Sir, I feel that the offence should be made a cognizable one. It was not cognizable before and you will find in cases of this nature, that when it is not made cognizable, the police can take no action. At present unfortunately, I see many people in my own country are so illiterate that if they marry their daughter who is a young girl under the age of 12 nobody will go and make a complaint against them, because everybody is getting married in the same way. Therefore, I feel that the offence must be made cognizable. The Police must take up these cases even without complaint. Even if they receive information through a person or through some friends that offences have been committed under this Act, they should proceed without a complaint. I feel therefore the word 'cognizable' is very important, and I think, Sir, it should be non-compoundable. If the offence is compoundable the parties after committing the offence, the complaint and the accused, the prosecutor and the person who has been prosecuted, will always compound or compromise the case among themselves and then appear in court after a few hearings and say: We have made up our differences and the case may be withdrawn or may be struck off the files. This should not be allowed. A case of this nature must be non-compoundable and the parties should have actually no power to compromise their own cases. It must be left entirely to the State, to the Police to see when an offence had been committed that those who are guilty of it must be punished according to law.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam: General): In spite of the fact that we have very great respect for the views of our revered leaders Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Mr. Ayyangar, it is very difficult to follow them in this matter whether the offence should be made cognizable or not. The history of British administration is a sad one and whenever we tried to legislate on social matters, they made it in such a way that it was more ineffective than we wanted it to be. It was always ineffective and they administered it in such a way that we could not make it effective in the country and it is one of the legislations that came on the statute book that remained absolutely dead from 1929 up till now, and we should now see that our consciences are to be roused and it should he made a cognizable one. There are many who are afraid lest it will be misused by some people. Therefore, it is a very wholesome provision that it should be enquired into by the Circle Inspector, who will have the advantage of consulting the District Magistrate and even if it is made cognizable a senior officer will have the advice of such persons who will not abuse power. Unless this is made cognizable, probably this statute will remain a dead letter again for another 20 years. We are trying to equal the great nations of the world.

[Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha]

When we go to the different foreign countries, when we hear of child marriage and other things, we bang our heads in shame. They point out many things which the British have very successfully and sedulously propagate it throughout the world that we have very bad social customs and we have a broken morality. We should try our best to come up to the proper level and we should be able to show to the world that our legislation is such that these things will not be neglected any further. Therefore, I think we should have no shilly shallying any more; so far we have been allowing the law to be broken and now the time has come, Sir, when we should see that the law is respected and no more treated as a dead letter.

With these few observations, I should like to support the provision that the offence should be made cognizable and we should not be made the laughing stock before the world because we do not like to enforce the law.

It has been said very often that in so far as marital ties, legislation, habits or customs, we are so superstitious that we are ashamed if somebody talks to us in a foreign country. We should, therefore, move forward; we should not move slowly as we did before and I feel that this legislation has come at a very proper time and I support Pandit Bhargava's Bill entirely. With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Shri V. S. Sarwate: Sir, I entirely agree with the principle underlying this Bill, which is the prevention of child marriage and premature mother-hood. Therefore, the best thing would be to so word the Bill that this purpose alone would be served and the Bill would not be needlessly delayed. As an honourable friend has already said, the marriage has two phases; one is the solemnization of the marriage and the second is the consummation. So what ought to have and should have been prohibited and prevented is the consummation of the marriage, whereas this Bill is wider in its scope and also prohibits solemnization. Now, Sir, some disadvantages of this widening has already been pointed out by another honourable friend. So I would not now again deal with them.

I would only place before the House certain other considerations which have to be taken into account and one of the considerations is the present condition of society. One would observe that under conditions of society as at present constituted, especially in towns there are innumerable incitements to amorous sentiments. It has so many incitements to what is called bodily passion. Go to any cinema and there would not be a scene without a kiss or embrace or love song. Civilization has also come to mean lip sticks and face powders. Even in schools girl students would not like to go to school without painting their lips or whitening their faces. Is it not time for us to think seriously whether a stop has not to be put to all this? Normally speaking every young man and every young woman has sufficient attraction for each other and there need not be any artificial beautifiers. Therefore, it is incumbent on society, especially the mothers and parents to exercise an influence which would be in the other direction.

In this connection, I may point out that if the solemnization of the marriage is performed at an early date it has certain advantages. There is a sense of security, a feeling that one has got a life-long companion, which ought to prevent the necessity of these attractions being added. As far as individuals are concerned, the object of a marriage is to have a good companion, whose nature is compatible, whose nature is readjustable so that both can live happily. If this is the object of marriage, then it must be admitted that the child marriage, gives more opportunities for the achievement of that object. Further child marriage gives better scope for affection to grow, for affection arises out of companionship, out of association, the opportunity to serve and to be useful to each

other. These opportunities are greater and larger if marriages are performed early rather than late. As marriages are performed late in life, natures and their readjustability are lessening and lessoning. So the readjustability of each other has a better chance when the married couple get united early and have been in association with each other for a longer time.

The foremost objection to child marriage is that it is not a love marriage, and that it is a puppet show whereas grown-up marriages are based on love and therefore, they have a better chance of being successful and being happy. Any cursory observation would show that this is not the case in society. Grown-up marriages are as unhappy as child marriages. What is required in marriage is affection and that affection grows out of association, as I told just now, whereas in the case of grown-up marriages, what is called love is really a strong sexual urge, which they call love. As regards sex matters probably Havelock Ellis is an authority and a quotation from his book would bear repetition. He says in his Studies in the Psychology of Sex at page 6 thus: "Wide observation supports the Hindu view that girls become fit to be mothers on the first onset of menstruation."

As regards love I would quote one passage which had been quoted a generation ago. Ellen Key a prominent leader of the femine movement, advocating free love, free divorce and motherhood without marriage observes: Sexual morality is impossible without early marriage. Postponement leads to prostitution, spread of venereal diseases and the evils of self-abuse and abstinence. In early marriages only, the highest form of love is possible." This may appear to be strange to some but it is the truth. For these reasons I would say that it would be better if the object underlying this Bill is made clear by the use of the word 'consummated' for the word 'solemnised'.

3 P.M

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): I rise generally to support the Bill. But there are one or two matters which I think should not be passed without due consideration. There is a tendency in the House as well as outside to pass laws on mere sentiment. Laws are entirely practical subjects and we must look to their application in practical life. With regard to the high purpose which has actuated the author of the Bill I have nothing but praise and admiration. In fact, whatever subject Pandit Bhargava supports, he invests it with considerable authority and sanctity. It is therefore with considerable diffidence and with due respect for him that I would submit one or two points for careful consideration.

The marriageable age of the boy is being raised from 18 to 20. I have no objection to that. But as regards the attempt to raise the marriageable age of the girl from 14 to 15, I ask the House to carefully consider the implications. In fact 15 and 16 are the marriageable age in educated and respectable families. It is often even higher. The Members of the House belong to educated and respectable classes and therefore look at the problem from their experience. But I would ask the House to consider the age limit with regard to the poorer working classes. Girls of the poorer classes have to eke out a living by manual labour. To put the age-limit as 15 in their cases is not desirable and may be dangerous in certain cases. To allow a working class girl up to 15 years of age to go about without the protection of a husband, without the protection of wealth or education would be fraught with danger. You are preventing her from marrying till she is 15. It does not happen that immediately she attains her 15th years she gets a husband. She will have to wait probably a year or two or more. In the meantime she may be considered to be too old to be married. The result might be that in certain cases we would increase unmarried motherhood in our land among the poorer classes. We have to bear in mind the conditions of our society. Our people are not educated. It is necessary for the protection of society that all should be educated. We have not yet been able

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

to introduce even primarily education everywhere. Eighty-seven per cent of our people are illiterate. Economically they are nowhere. Most people do not get even two meals. We are deficient in the matter of food. In this economic deficiency and illiteracy, the raising of the age limit from 14 to 15 in the case of girls in all cases would not be desirable. But the House is in a mood to proceed on the impulse of high sentiment and it is not possible to stem the tide of high sentiment in the House at this stage. I therefore submit my view and warn the House of the serious consequences of the age limit being raised in the case of the poorer classes. We must visualise the reality and must understand the conditions in which the poorer classes live. This is my view. I do not wish to move any amendment, but I submit my view for the consideration of the House.

Then, with regard to the punishment that is proposed, I feel that it is drastic. But I think that if we want to enforce the law, the punishment should be drastic. I therefore fully agree with clause 4 dealing with punishment. But then I have serious objections and serious misgivings with regard to clause 6 which makes the offence cognizable. Having been a lawyer for number of years and having observed the methods of the police for more than a quarter of a century from close quarters, I submit that this provision will be fraught of great danger. It was submitted that the Sarda Act has been a dead letter. To a certain extent it is so. In fact, prosecutions are rare. But it would not be proper or true to say that it has failed. It has already raised the age-limit. The fear of prosecution has worked and this has acted in a large number of cases as a sufficient deterrent, though prosecutions are very rare. That shows that the people are not sufficiently advanced for such a reform. Now we want by this Bill to raise our social standard and civilization with the help of the rod and the whip and the Penal Laws. I submit that this would be too drastic a measure and that the remedy will be worse than the disease. Early marriage is an evil, but in certain cases it may inevitable, especially in the case of the poorer classes. The effect of making the offence cognizable should be clearly understood and appreciated. Its effect would be that the police would have the right to make arrests without any warrant: and the consequence of a marriage would be that the bride and the bridegroom and their parents as also the priests and even the guests may be arrested; and it will not be confined to genuine cases only. If there is information that a girl immediately below 15 has been married that will at once set the police machinery in action. Although we have gained independence the police had not improved except in strength and in some cases, mischievous tendencies. They have shared our independence in that they are independent of all restraints. In fact they have become more powerful and in many cases a little more dangerous. The result of giving them this power would be to enable them to interfere in social matters where improvement should be left to public opinion. It is enough to make the offence punishable with imprisonment; that would be a sufficient deterrent. But to invest the police with indiscriminate and unrestricted powers would be absolutely and positively mischievous. Men who are accustomed to cases in criminal courts cannot fail to have noticed that in cases of riots and other similar offences, the police go to a village and effect wholesale arrests. Nothing, however, is on paper about a person being arrested. They are arrested only orally, that is, they are caught hold of, brought to the police and made to wait and then negotiations begin. And those who are lucky enough to please the police are released, and no record is kept. In this way a large number of innocent men are brought in and for fear of being arrested and sent to *hajat* they sometimes purchase immunity by the payment of money. In this case if we give this power to the police the result would be that a large number of people would be arrested. And even if a girl is 15

or above, that may not prevent wholesale arrests, and the new power would be fraught with the gravest consequences.

I suggest, Sir, that social reform should be a matter partly for the Legislature and partly for society. We have not given our people sufficient education and enough food but we are very much liberal where inexpensive popularity is concerned. It is not enough to think in eloquent terms and feel great and magnanimous in regard to our laws and think that we have done justice. This social problem is largely economic, largely educational and largely a question of civilisation. I submit, therefore, that we must leave matters to society and must not grant unrestricted authority to the police in respect of family matters. It is enough that we have made the offence punishable with compulsory imprisonment and have made it also non-compoundable. That would be quite enough; in fact there is some sanction of law. Let this fear of punishment work as a deterrent, let the social forces also co-operate with it. It is not helpful to terrorise people into public morality; the result would be mischievous arrests, inquiries and searches on a large scale, and unhappiness and misery throughout the land. It may be that a section of lawyers who are now anathema to the House would be benefited; this would be another "lawyers' paradise," like the Hindu Code and—as is said—the new Constitution. In fact we must not multiply litigation and create trouble. The result would be to convert India into a vast prison house in which a very large number would be imprisoned. I submit that the law should proceed along with public opinion: public opinion should be an ally of law and law an ally of public opinion; they should go hand in hand for the public good. You must give the people education, clothing and food; otherwise these grandiose schemes will not improve matters. I have already said that I have great admiration and respect for the personality of the author and his high motives, but in these matters high motives often carry away their possessions. I submit this is a mischievous clause and should not be accepted.

With regard to the age limit of 15 years I have submitted that it will work as a hardship. It is said that in England the age limit is 20 or 21. But it is not correct: there the age limit is 16, as will be found in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. XIV, P. 952, as also in Halsbury's Laws of England, Vol-XVI, P. 564, where Art. 848 says: "Marriage between persons either of whom is under the age of sixteen is void." That is by the Act of 1929—the year of the Sarda Act—and it is 19 and 20 Geo. V, Ch. 36. Therefore even such an advanced country as England has not thought it necessary to raise the age to the point that we want to. Remembering the condition of the poorer classes I suggest that it should not be enhanced, and we should not be fired away by a desire for copying the West where they are proceeding cautiously.

Sir, I support the first reading of the Bill and ask the honourable Mover to consider the points that I have submitted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I have listened with great interest the discussion on this motion. There are three definitley important points in the report of the Select Committee. One is about the raising of the age of the boy as well as of the girl. The second point is about the nature of the punishment. Whereas in the original Act the punishment is fine or imprisonment, what is being sought here is that the punishment will be substantial punishment plus fine. The third point is about the nature of investigation into offences under this Act. It is said that offences should be cognizable, bailable and non-compoundable.

I agree, Sir, that the intention of the honourable Member who is in charge of this Bill is undoubtedly good. I share his enthusiasm for social progress. I also share the view that now that this Government is a Government of the

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

people, instead of taking a neutral attitude on such matters, the Government should take a definite and positive attitude. But in social matters, especially when they concern not a few, not a section, not a class here and there, but practically the whole community, it is only wisdom that we should move with a little caution.

In 1929 when the original Act was passed, the Government of the day, undoubtedly laid down a great principle. When it was sought to oppose this particular Bill by the orthodox section of the House, on the ground that this House had no jurisdiction to interfere in matters social and religious, it was definitely laid down that when there is a great and corroding evil and there is a promising remedy, it is the duty of the Government to remove it by legislation. Undoubtedly in the year 1929, the evil was very great and so great was it that even a foreign Government felt that it would be justified in interfering with what was obviously a social matter.

But things have definitely changed. In the course of the last 20 years, there has been a steady progress and understanding of this problem. No social reform can be abiding in its effect if it merely rests on fear and not on cinviction. If honourable Members are anxious that people concerned should know that child marriage is a great evil, it is far better that it should be left to them to carry out this reform voluntarily than to make it a penal offence. In 1929 the original Bill was passed and then in the year 1936 there was an amendment, the amending Bill was brought by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and a few days after, another Bill was introduced, and to some extent in a modified form was also passed. That credit went to my honourable and old friend, Mr. B. Das. The real remedy then, it was pointed out, was not to make the offence cognizable but provision should be made that a marriage in breach of the provisions of that Act would be considered invalid, null and void. That was a radical remedy. It was there pointed out that that was a radical remedy no doubt but not a promising remedy, and in the long run the consequences that would flow would be disastrous, the object of the social reformer would be frustrated. It was then agreed that the Bill was much in advance of public opinion and this particular provision was not pressed by the Congress Party which was then in opposition. But certain other matters were taken into consideration and one of them was that in the original Bill provision was made that if the marriage in contravention of the patricular provisions of that Act was celebrated in British India, then only it was an offence. By the subsequent amendment, the jurisdiction became extra-territorial, in the sense that if the marriage against the provisions of this Act was celebrated at Chandernagore or in any territory outside British India it was also considered as an offence.

From stage to stage amendments have been effected always with a view to see that we are not considerably in advance of public opinion. The present position, Sir, is this. So far as the educated and upper classes are concerned, the problem is not of age of marriage: the problem is of marriage itself. I doubt whether girls are married even at 17 or 18. So that section of the community has practically little to gain from the contemplated piece of legislation. As regards the masses, what happened immediately after this original 1929 Bill was introduced, it will be very interesting to note, Sir, this was written by one of the newspapers from Bengal:

"A matrimonial wave is just passing over the country. Bride in embryo is being married to groom in the craddle. The Sarda Act is coming into force and the pig-tailed Pandits have sanctified juvenile marriage to stave off perdition. Poor girl just learning to suck the feeding bottle being carried over to the wedding bower. Urchins are being snatched from the arms of their playmates to don the grab of a groom. As an emergency

measure the elastic Pandits have issued an edict whereby have certified the month of Chaitra to be the proper season for matrimonial alliances. Our Pandits have extended the limits this year. We are sure before the 1st April comes on there will be hardly left single unmarried man or woman in India."

Now what is being sought by this Bill is to raise the marriageable age of the girl from 14 to 15. I do not pretend to say that those consequences which were referred to in one of the issues of *Liberty* will follow. But the point is: Will this remedy the evil? If it is a promising remedy, I would be the first man to agree. The problem, as I stated, is confined to the masses, and in the rural areas among the agricultural community, my own experience is that in the course of the last 20 years, gradually the age has been increasing. Now it is 9, 10, 11 and 12. In my part of the country even among the masses no more are girls married when they are three or four. The age has fairly increased. Suppose if we increase it to 15: it is not going to have any effect. The effect that will be abiding and sure will be secured only by the advance of public opinion. When they are economically poor they do not think of marriage. When they are a little better off, the main item of expenditure is marriage and the other item of expenditure is the *shraddha* celebration of parents.

Now, the evil as it was existent 20 years ago is not so great. Therefore, I cannot call it so great and corroding an evil as to require interference at this stage. I should rather think that we should let things move on quietly: let public opinion be reconciled from stage to stage and ultimately even without an Act of this kind we will have marriages at the proper ages.

So far as the attitude of the Government is concerned I want to make it quite clear that Government will not agree to the raising of the age either of the boy or the girl as it has been reported by the Select Committee. The age of the boy is being raised from 18 to 20, which is a jump of two years. A boy is considered to be a good recruit for the army when he has completed the 18th year but according to this provision he would not be good enough to be a husband. Though there may be difference of opinion, in this country a boy of 18 is a fairly grown up boy and those arguments of health and other cognate matters are, I think, not relevant. Under the Law he attains majority at 18 and this Bill will be interference with his civil rights. When a boy has completed his 18th year what is the justification for raising the age of consent to 20. One of my honourable friends here quoted Manu and said that a man is considered to be good enough for marriage when he is 32. A man is also considered to be the best man if he does not marry at all: that is also one of the injunctions of Manu. So far as the injunction regarding age is concerned one has to consider the injunction of nature; if the race is to continue, if the instinct of reproduction is supreme in the human race, then let us understand it and adjust it in a fair and equitable manner. So it is our view that the original age limit as in the Act of 1929 as amended up to date, *viz.*, 18 and 14 for boys and girls respectively, should remain.

The second point is about the punishment. In one case the offence is punishable with simply imprisonment or fine. Here it is sought to make that anybody acting in contravention of certain provisions of this law will not only be fined but will also have to undergo simple imprisonment in one case of 15 days and in the other case upto three months. When the punishment was only a fine the parents of the bride and bridegroom looked upon it as an addition to the dowry. They will now say that going to jail is a matter of prestige and it will give them the opportunity also to defy the law or perform satyagraha. I remember when what was known popularly as the Sarda Act was on the legislative anvil Mohammad Ali openly declared that he would be the first to perform satyagraha so far as the provisions of that Bill were concerned. So it is a matter for consideration of the House whether to pass

[Shri N. V. Gadgil]

an Act the provisions of which are sure to be disobeyed and disregarded by a large section of the Community and would tend towards the creation of an undesirable atmosphere in the country or whether they should not move rather cautiously or slowly for sometime, educating public opinion all along and go on progressively realising the great objectives of social reform which we have in view.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What about the Hindu Code?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Wait and see. One of the greatest of social reformers, Justice Ranade stated that in matters of social reform you must hasten slowly. My honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh asked what about the Hindu Code. The Hindu Code is a compilation of all matters relating to Hindu law into one code. That is one aspect of the code. The second aspect is one of merit. As far as merits are concerned even in the speech that I made the other day I stated that you must agree that the daughter must have something.....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why? Is public opinion in favour of this change?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Even on that occasion when my honourable friend pressed repeatedly I read out an extract from a resolution passed by the Dharma Nirnaya Mandal. This Dharma Nirnaya Mandal is a body which consists of great scholars and social reformers including Mahamahopadyaya Kane, the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University. That resolution contained the considered opinions of these stalwarts, scholars and social reformers who gathered in a conference of all the social workers and representatives of all the social institutions in the Bombay Presidency. They passed a resolution that although some of the things in the proposed Hindu Code were not to their liking but inasmuch as they had been crying for this reform for over a quarter of a century, they thought they might take that risk and in the consideration stage it would not be impossible to adjust differences here and there.

So as far as I see there is nothing inconsistent in what I say now and what I said the other day. The point remains whether the punishment should be such (and it is a question for this House seriously to consider) that by passing this legislation it is bound to result in defiance and disregard of the law on a very large scale and whether the prevalence of such an atmosphere in the country is in the highest interests of the state. It is for this responsible House to consider this matter.

The third point was about the nature of investigation into offences under this law. So far as this particular point is concerned, after listening to the speech of the honourable Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya I should say that it is particularly a matter on which there should be no further discussion. How it will work in the country has been well illustrated in the speeches of some of the members just now. While the offence was non-cognizable men were not found wanting who in order to spite the nose of their opponents in the villages went out of their way to initiate proceedings and bring the bride and bridegroom into the court. To eliminate this evil a provision was made that some amount ought to be deposited and that the magistrate should be a first class magistrate or a Presidency Magistrate. But when you make the offence cognizable, even if you say that cognizance could be taken by a sub-inspector or a circle inspector, the usual charges will be made, *viz.*, that if you give so much power to the police or the executive you can just imagine whether the chances of its abuse are not greater. So it is a serious matter and my own honest feeling is that if you make the offence cognizable you will be destroying the peace of the villages.

In elections now there are parties. Elections are being introduced into the small villages in province after province. There is legislation in provinces for the constitution of village panchayats not only for the purpose of managing their local affairs but for the purpose of doing some judicial work also. In some of the provinces the Acts have provided that civil cases up to a certain limit will be tried by the panchayats. They will also try some petty offences. I have never seen a general election without parties or without groups and without creating a warm atmosphere. Every one of us in the House, at any rate most of us, have very substantial experience of running elections. Election is a thing which turns friends into enemies and enemies into friends. When panchayats are to be elected in every village there will be at least two factions and the aftermath of the election does not end with the declaration of the election results. Sometimes the feud is considered practically hereditary or it remains for months together, if not for years. And if it happens that such provisions are made available to the goondas in villages I shudder to think what will happen to the peace of the villages. It is therefore definitely disastrous to have a provision as is contemplated in this Bill, *viz.*, the introduction of a new section Section 9 (a). I should therefore in all humility, in all earnestness that I am capable of, request the honourable Members to seriously think about it. When the Hindu Code comes it will embrace all these points. Why do these things piecemeal here and there. This will be considered in much greater detail then.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Hindu Code be applicable to Muslims and Christians?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Let us talk about Hindus. the Muslims and Christians will look after themselves.

This being the position I am constrained to say that it will not be in the best interests of the country to have this piece of legislation. At the same time if I had been convinced that the evil was so great and the remedy so promising the Government would certainly have come forward and given its support.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): May we know whether the views expressed by the honourable Member are the views of the Government?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understand them to be the views of the Government.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Definitely. How could I express my personal opinion?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C. P. and Berar: General): I am rather sorry that I am compelled to take the attitude this afternoon which I am going to take. I have always prided myself that I was a social reformer and I do not think my zeal for social reform has abated in any way. When my honourable friend made his long speech last time I did feel that there was a reasonable case made out by him. But now, especially after my sojourn in America, I have completely altered my views so far as this Bill is concerned. That has also strengthened my opinion which I have already held with regard to the Hindu Code and I hope the fact that the House does not approve of the increase of age limits will also persuade the House not to agree to the Hindu Code as a whole.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

The age limit for marriages was fixed for a very important purpose. The purpose was to stop child marriages. The original Act was intended to eradicate this evil and although the evil might not have been completely eradicated there has been considerable advance in the society as a whole. The present proposal before the House is for an increase of one year in the age of the marriage of girls. Before we accept this we must be thoroughly convinced that we are going by this legislation to achieve a purpose which will be of real benefit to the society at large and would not cause any avoidable harassement.

The present age limit is fourteen for girls. If we compare the development especially of girls in India and in colder countries we will find that the girls in India develop and mature far earlier than they do in colder climates. The honourable Member, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, has read out chapter and verse to prove that the age of sixteen is good enough even for a country like England not only for the girls but also for the boys. Even that should be quite sufficient to persuade us, at least for a number of years to come, to experiment only with the age of fourteen and eighteen and not to go ahead of it.

I referred to my visit to America and that was the most important point on which I was somewhat anxious to speak before the House. It may be that my observation is incorrect, that my inferences and conclusions are not absolutely well founded. But so far as I could see, so far as I could discern and from the information I could gather the impression conveyed to me was that in America at least they are fed up and tired of marriages at advanced ages. They are gradually but perceptibly coming to marry younger and younger. I met not less than twenty people who married girls who were only eighteen years of age and when they were of the age of twenty or twenty-one. Not only were the boys and girls happier but their parents, who in many cases were old and who had the experience of their own boys and girls having married at advanced ages, also expressed tremendous satisfaction. According to them marriages at younger ages not only led to more happiness but continued to be more affectionate towards them than was generally the case before. To my mind it is quite simple why this should be so. In England also we know the people are not satisfied with the state of affairs in the society. The number of divorces that take place is alarming and that is also the case in America. They are busy finding out a remedy because this has led to disruption of families and disruption of society which is a matter of the gravest concern to all. The American people—at any rate a very large section of them—think that the solution lies in the boys and girls marrying at an earlier age than they have been doing so far. If they marry at an unduly advanced age the consequence is that both the girl and the boy have some past and that does affect their happiness. (*Interruption*). It is a fact, Sir, and I am not stating anything from my imagination. These are things which one likes it or not actually do happen. After the first tide of love has subsided and the first impulse of love has evaporated facts connected with the past of each other begin to affect the affection and then the whole trouble in the family begins. Inevitably this leads in many cases to divorces. This is how we have the colossal number of divorces.

So far as India is concerned wherever the people marry at advanced ages the increase of one year in the age of marriage although it looks harmless will lead to many other problems. The very fact that we have the age of fourteen for the girl means that up to the age of fourteen the parents have to guard and maintain her. There are many people who are labourers who do not

know what to do with their girls till they are fourteen years of age because there are not even sufficient number of schools where they could send them. In many cases want of money prevents them from taking advantage even where the schools are there. Even the present age of fourteen is a sufficiently difficult problem for the poorer people of the country. Increasing it by one more year will not, I think, either add to the happiness of the poorer people or eradicate in any more extensive degree the evils in our society. I have already related the experience in other countries of marrying at very advanced ages and if we wish to learn by the experience of other people we should not go too fast in this matter.

I feel somewhat sorry about my honourable friend who has laboured on this Bill for such a long time—I am sure of his earnestness, I am sure he is actuated by the best of motives—and I am really sorry that I should find myself in disagreement with him. But I think the day has not yet come when we ought to go so fast because the world itself, and especially the western world, is coming more and more towards the ideals which we cherished but which we find are nowadays held to ridicule and contempt. There are many amongst us who think that the Hindu society has nothing good in it, that the joint family must be destroyed. On the other hand, if we go to foreign countries, we will find that they regard India as the only ray of hope of having a society that will be stable, that will have more family happiness than they have at the present moment. The whole of America, I find, is concerned about the lack of happiness in their families and in their societies, and they think that some day another Mahatma Gandhi will rise in India who will show them the proper way and they will follow the Hindu tenets, the Hindu principles of philosophy and social re-construction which will probably give them solace and satisfaction.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I just beg of the honourable Member to tell me if he knows what were the views of Mahatma Gandhi with regard to the age of marriage?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am merely referring to him as a prophet born in India who gave a new philosophy to the world which is essentially oriental in nature, and not from the point of view of whether he agreed that 14½ years should be the age of marriage, or 14 years and 2 months or 15 years and 16 days or anything of that nature.

Now, with regard to the boys: I do not think it is necessary to raise the age to 20 because at the age of 18 the age of majority is completed, and if a boy is capable of looking after lakhs of rupees worth of property and is in a position to make legal and valid contracts of all kinds, then if my sponsors of Hindu Code want to make marriage more and more of a contract, why do you want to deny him the right to contract marriage? So far as Hindu law is concerned many enthusiasts are struggling to approximate as far as possible to the ideal of marriage being a contract and not to regard or keep it as a sacrament. If that is so and if we have given the boy of 18, perfect right to make any contract, why should it not be possible for him to perform this simpler contract of marriage? So, from that point of view also there is no need for this Bill at present. I hope my honourable friend instead of spending more time on this Bill will spare it for other Bills two of which stand in his own name. I am prepared to support one of them. (*An honourable Member*: "So very kind of you.")

With the object which I have just stated I do not wish to take any more time of the House. I am sorry the Honourable Mr. Gadgil took so much time on it; if he had said just that Government do not accept the Bill the whole thing would have been settled in a few minutes. Of course he did advance very

[Dr. P. S Deshmukh]

cogent reasons for the view that he and the Government have taken. Sir, there are other important Bills. I myself have one Bill which I am very keen should get a chance today.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speeches delivered on this Bill, but surely I was not prepared to hear such views of the Government as have been just expressed in regard to this matter. It was simply a surprise to me. When the Bill was circulated, it was the Honourable Mr. Gadgil who supported the motion for circulation. When the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, Government did not take up this attitude which it has taken now. Why should the Government agree to circulation when they regarded that the basic principles of this Bill were not acceptable.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: For eliciting public opinion.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If the Government elicit public opinion, Government should logically accept that opinion as true if the opinions are in favour of this Bill. I submit, Sir, when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, I read out many opinions, and the public opinion which was received, was, I should say, almost conclusively in favour of this Bill. After having elicited that opinion, after accepting that opinion, after referring the matter to the Select Committee, now for the Government to come forward and say that they do not accept the same, is simply surprising.

Then again, I am very glad the Honourable Mr. Gadgil has spoken on behalf of the Government. As my friend has stated, if he had simply opposed the motion, we would have been in the dark. Now I believe Government will be consistent, to say the least, and when these observations which have been made by my honourable friend at this hour will be read out in the House at the time when the Hindu Code Bill comes back again, they will rue the day that they made these observations here.

Shri B. N. Munavalli (Bombay States): Why so much prejudice?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My friend says, why so much prejudice? I am in favour of the Hindu Code. I said it that day and I stand by the provisions which I supported in my speech. I know that the Hindu Code Bill is a landmark so far the codification is concerned, and there are certain provisions in it which I support; but at the same time I am not going to take up the attitude which the Government has taken. I am condemning that attitude.

Now, Sir, the thing which really breaks my heart is this, that the Government so far do not know how great is this evil in the country. I can understand that Mr. Gadgil may not know it, but the Government also do not know. That troubles me very much. I have been going about in the country with my eyes open; I accept that in the cities there has been some improvement, but I do not think that in the rural areas the improvement is very great. Even today at least 40 per cent of the girls in the country are married below the age of 15. When I think of what I saw in 1929, when I visualise that in this country there is pre-puberty consummation and consummation soon after puberty, I have nothing but to hang my head in shame. I am extremely sorry that our leaders do not realise the gravity of the evil. My regret is beyond expression. I cannot, as a matter of fact, express myself fully when I submit that it is too deplorable to think that the full effect of the evil is not realised. As the full effect of the evil is not realised, I can understand the stand taken by Government, but still when I think of the implications of what has

been stated by the Honourable Mr. Gadgil, my heart sinks. He says that the Hindu Code is acceptable because certain gentlemen, *mahamahopadhyayas*, have said that it is good. In this case, in 1929 when the Bill was on the anvil of the Legislature, I wired to Mahatma Gandhi to give us the benefit of his lead to the country and he said in reply that 25 for boys and 16 for girls is the proper age. I cannot think of any man greater than Mahatma Gandhi in this matter, and if this was his view, if we cannot live up to his standards at least we should, as far as possible, try to move in the direction indicated by him. But to say that 14 is the proper age is to go against the declared opinion of medical science in this country and abroad and is to fly away from the actual realities of life. Can you think of a stronger man or a more influential man or a more beloved man in this House than Sardar Patel? May I quote Sardar Patel against Mr. Gadgil? When the other Age of Consent Bill was coming up and he was in the chair in the Select Committee, he just asked me to accept 16 as the age of consent. I submitted 15 was sufficient; we are weak people. Sir, I know I am perfectly sure in my mind that had the whole matter been referred to Sardar Patel, these two Bills would have gone through. My difficulty is this. If in the other Bill we have got 15 as the age of consent, may I humbly ask whether it would be possible, whether it will be liked by public opinion in the country that this House should make 15 as the age of consent and 14 as the age of marriage? It is unthinkable. If the age of marriage is 14 we cannot have 15 as the age of consent without very great harassment to the people. My friend wants that the peace in the village should not be disturbed, but he wants to disturb the peace of the whole country because if 15 is the age of consent and 14 the age of marriage, I shudder to think what would happen to this country. I hope the Government, in that Bill also, will have the age of consent at 14. 97 per cent of the people were in favour of that Bill. The Report of the Select Committee is unanimous. How can I possibly accept the age of 14 in that Bill? I am at my wit's end when I understand that the Government are taking up this position regarding the age of 14.

As regards the other question of making this offence cognizable, I am glad that the Honourable Mr. Gadgil placed before us two conditions for concluding if this Bill should be got through. He said that if the evil is too great and the remedy is promising, there is a case for having that remedy. Sir, I may submit the evil is too great. If he wants to go with me to the country, I can assure him on this, he will simply be surprised when he comes to know that girls under the age of one and two are married. I have been giving such examples which have been coming to my notice, and any person in this House who has occasion to go to the villages will confirm me. In 1929 the figures were given that there were 3,96,000 widows below the age of 15. It is unfortunate that in the census of 1941 these figures are not given. Otherwise, I would have brought them to the notice of the House. I do not know what more evidence of the enormity of the evil the Government wants.

4 P. M.

As regards the remedy, I am rather surprised that this Government which claims that is has done something to improve the position of the Police comes up and says that it should not be made cognizable. I can understand our revered Dr. Pattabhi or some other gentlemen who may have known only the black side of the Police saying that it is corrupt. But I cannot understand it of the Government. Why do you rely on the Police if it is corrupt. Scrap it if you cannot put your confidence in it. My humble submission is that so far as the Police is concerned, I can make bold to say that since our National Government took office, the Police has considerably improved. It is much less corrupt than it was before. My friend Mr. Naziruddin speaks with twenty five years of experience and tells us what happened during the riots. Well, as a practising lawyer for over forty years, I know what the Police is. A

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

Circle Inspector is much more honest than a Sub-Inspector or a Head Constable. We are not entrusting this work to a Head Constable or a Sub-Inspector; if we did, it would be a different matter. Ultimately, the court has to decide. Only two questions have to be settled: if there was a marriage and what was the age. Where does the corruption of the Police come in here? I do not want to say that Government do not want to stop this evil, but at the same time, I must say they have not taken a realistic attitude.

Then, again, what is the harm if this offence is made cognizable and there is compulsory imprisonment? After all, when my friend talks of the opinion of Dr. Pattabhi, may I remind him that in regard to compulsory imprisonment, he is of the same opinion as myself? Both he and Dr. Tek Chand have agreed that imprisonment should be compulsory. He does not accept this opinion. Also when he speaks of Dr. Pattabhi's opinion, may I tell him that Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said that the Hindu Code should not be allowed to go on? So the opinion of a Congress President does not matter in one respect; but in another respect, the opinion of the President of the Congress matters.

There are three questions involved in this matter: age, cognizable and compulsory imprisonment. When Government have taken up the attitude they have done, it means that they do not want to proceed with the Bill; they want to kill the soul of this Bill. If Government will allow a free vote on this Bill, free vote of every Minister and every Member of this House, I will go on with the Bill, because I am firmly of the opinion that the country wants it, the House wants it and every member wants it. But since they are not allowing a free vote and they want to utilise their own votes to kill this Bill, I am sorry I have no option left but to adopt a course which is not consistent with the further progress of the Bill.

With regard to the rest of the members who took part in the debate, I will say a word or two before I finish. Dr. Pattabhi, except in the matter of making it conizable, supports the Bill fully. Mr. Upadhyaya was also in favour of the Bill. Similarly your goodself supported the Bill except in the matter of its being cognizable. As I submitted in my opening speech, you were too pleased to make a remark against my poor self when this Bill was being referred to Select Committee on 2nd April 1947, and though you perhaps did not know, I took my cue from your speech. You were pleased to say:

"But since 1929, when this Act was passed, if the power was given to the police and this offence made cognizable for the last 7 to 10 years, then the community would have become accustomed to put off marriages to the age of 14 or 15. If the first daughter is not married before 14, they have crossed the bar not only in their family but in the entire community, because on account of orthodoxy or religious scruples they cannot marry after the age of puberty. If it is made a cognizable offence and the man is prevented from celebrating such a marriage with respect to the first daughter, then he has gone over to the other side and thereafter no principle of orthodoxy can stand in this way."

I am not saying that since you have not agreed today, therefore, you have no right to change your opinion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know if I will be right in explaining, sitting as I am in a different seat. But I would like to say that my objection was with respect to the cognizable portion only.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Now, I would request the honourable Member to read what the Honourable Mr. Chairman said in 1936. He opposed the Bill tooth and nail at that time. I mean the present Deputy-Speaker.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This is a world of change.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was a different Bill. Merely because Marriage or Child Marriage is referred to one Bill is not the same Bill as another.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This was the very Bill I am quoting from.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am referring to the Bill of 1936.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am not in a mood to complain about this change. Change is the order of life and if you change your opinion, it is all right. I make a sporting offer again. If Government wants this evil to be crushed out of existence, the only way in which they can do it is to make it cognizable for three years and see what the result is. If you give compulsory imprisonment, then people will come to realize that it is a real offence. Uneducated people, illiterate people, will only know then.

One argument was used by Honourable Mr. Gadgil that economically it is not sound. May I refer again to his speech wherein he said that he went to the people and told them.....

An Honourable Member: That was an election speech!

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am proposing the very same thing which he said in his speech.

Now, Sir, with regard to the speeches of the other honourable Members, Chaudhury Ranbir Singh has supported me. Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena has given a very good speech and supported me. Mr. Ramnarayan Singh who usually does not support any measure which goes against the people, feels convinced that this is the only way in which this Bill can work. Mr. Tajamul Husain has supported. Mr. Chaliha has supported me. Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, a great criminal lawyer that he is, is rather afraid and has become too conservative; he does not want to take any risks, but all the same, on the question of compulsory imprisonment, he has supported me. I find that Dr. Deshmukh is the only gentleman who has supported Mr. Gadgil in regard to the age. In regard to the age, I would request Government kindly to go through the report of the Age of Consent Committee—a product on which they spent something like Rs. 2,88,000 and at least read para. 358 of the report on which this Bill is based. On all other points, I can certainly accept a compromise. I can even accept an opinion which is adverse to my opinion. But I am afraid Government is certainly misguided in having 14 as the age. I am not agreeable to change my opinion unless they show that the entire medical science which says that no girl should be allowed to approach a husband unless she is 15, is wrong. But, I will never agree that the Government should take the age 14 as the proper age.

In regard to the age of 18, it is said that it is the recruitment age, and therefore, it is a good age for marriage. I do not think that there is any qualification like this in the case of recruitment. What has recruitment to do with eligibility for a marriage. Have we forgotten what our Vag Bhatta and Sushruta have said in this matter? In regard to the boy's age of 18 or 19 years, I will not be so dogmatic; but so far as the girl is concerned, I cannot compromise on this age of 14. It cannot be less than 15. But, since this is basically a matter of great importance, if the Government are not agreeable, I would humbly request you to this effect that so far as this Bill is concerned, it may be postponed to the next session. I shall proceed with the Bill clause by clause in the next session, because, I know that the Government will certainly take a different view if the Government will consider the point. It is unfortunate that the entire matter has not been gone into by the Government with the care that it deserves. It pains me, Sir, to say

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

all this. I cannot understand any Government in this world is capable of saying that 14 is the proper age of marriage for girls. Therefore, this is not the last word. I am optimistic. I know that the Honourable Mr. Gadgil is a patriot. I know that all the gentlemen on the Treasury Benches will take a different view when they come to consider in their moments of solitude that what they are doing is not good for the country. I therefore submit that at this stage this Bill may be allowed to be postponed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understood the Government to say that out of the three matters, so far as the age is concerned, 15 may be accepted; that imprisonment may stand; but only the offence ought not to be made a cognizable one. That is all. If so, will the honourable Member.. ...

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They opposed everything.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: So far as the age is concerned, will they agree to 15? Secondly, do they agree to compulsory imprisonment?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): If that is the position of the Government, it may be left to the free vote of the House. If it is only the question whether the offence should be a cognizable one, a verbal amendment, at this stage, may be accepted and the Bill may be passed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This is a very important matter. I would request you kindly to let us know the position. I do not want to take up this attitude against the Government. If the Government are agreeable to accept the age 15 for girls and make the offence compulsorily imprisonable, then, it is a case for us to consider what we should do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, I shall put to vote the motion for consideration. I think the honourable Member has only made a suggestion, and he is not making a motion for withdrawal.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I withdraw that request, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 etc.*), the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 2 and 4*) and the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, (*Amendment of Sections 10, 11 and 13*), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, we shall take up the amendments. Clause 2.

Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand (East Punjab: General): Sir, caluse 2 comprises two amendments with regard to the age of the girl and the age of the boy. Will you put them to vote separately or together.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; "for the words 'eighteen' and 'fourteen' the words 'eighteen' and 'fifteen' will be substituted."

Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand: Will you take the vote separately for raising the age of the girl from 14 to 15 and of the boy to 20 in place of 18?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think that is necessary. The honourable the Mover seems to have accepted the age for the boy as 18. He is more particular about the girl's age as 15. Is it the intention of the honourable

Member that clause 2 should read as follows:

"for the words 'eighteen' and 'fourteen' the words 'eighteen' and fifteen' shall respectively be substituted."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I agree to that amendment, Sir.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: It should be formally moved.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I shall move amendment formally, Sir.

Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand: I move:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2 In clause (a) of section 2 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), for the word 'fourteen' the word 'fifteen' shall be substituted'."

That is all.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, there is another amendment in my name to clause 2. I do not know what the attitude of the Government will be in regard to this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me dispose of this amendment first.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: I wish to speak on this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me place the amendment before the House.

Amendment moved:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2. In clause (a) of section 2 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), for the word 'fourteen', the word 'fifteen' shall be substituted'."

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: I think the raising of the girl's age will work considerable hardship.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member has said so.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: I wish to make it known that this decision has been reached rather hastily. With regard to the boy, the age may have been increased. But, with regard to the girl, we are not facing facts. We are blinding ourselves to our own personal experience. I therefore oppose the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the amendment to vote. So far as the other amendment is concerned, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava may move it later.

The question is:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2. In clause (a) of section 2 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), for the word 'fourteen', the word 'fifteen' shall be substituted'."

Babu Ramanarayan Singh: Who has moved this amendment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand:

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In regard to this amendment, Sir, that is, a man over 45 years of age should not be allowed to marry a girl under 18 years, I do not know what the reactions of the Government would be.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That has been rejected by the Select Committee unanimously.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Since there is no time, I do uot propose to move this amendment. But I reserve my right to bring forward another Bill in regard to this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Before the honourable Member. Mr. Sarwate, is allowed to move his amendment, may I raise a point of order, Sir? His amendment is out of order since the basic principle of the Bill itself is affected, whereas this is only an amending Bill and only certain sections have got to be amended. But he wants the amendment of the very Act, itself. He wants to say that insteal of the word 'solemnization' the words "the consummation of marriage" to be substituted. This cuts at the very root of the previous Bill and therefore it is out of order.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I support the amendment that has been moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member has not moved any amendment. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has raised a point of order that this is not germane to the amending Bill. I would like to hear the honourable Member regarding this point of order.

Shri V. S. Sarwate: It is not against the object of the Bill. The object of the Bill, as I said before, is to prevent premature maternity.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I interrupt the honourable Member and remind the House that the honourable the Speaker had the same view this morning that this went against the very principle of the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: He said so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid there is a difference. Before the matter came up before him the Speaker felt that it might be his opinion. The matter has now come for consideration and has to be heard.

Shri V. S. Sarwate: As this is germane to the object of the Bill, there is nothing beyond the scope of the Bill and there is no irregularity in suggesting this amendment; it is perfectly within the four corners of the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I rise to support the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The honourable Member will kindly resume his seat.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: On this point of order, I submit that the contention is that this is a negative amendment. I strongly suggest that this is not the case because after all the intention of the honourable Member the Mover also is to stop child marriage, and early pregnancy etc., and that object is fulfilled. As a matter of fact, Sir, the way in which we are discussing this Bill is somewhat novel, because the Government absolutely clearly and unambiguously stated that it was not in favour of increase of any age whatsoever. So what we are trying to do now is by way of a compromise. So the Bill was completely killed. As a matter of fact, you have resurrected it and have brought it into existence by giving the honourable Member a chance to move his amendment for raising the age to 15. It would be in the fitness of things especially in view of what has occurred and in the view wihch has been held by Government as well as by the members of the House that this amendment ought to be allowed, because it does not negative, but substantially fulfils the purpose of the enactment.

Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand: Regarding the point of order raised by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, the original Act—known as the Sarda Act—is styled: "Whereas it is expedient to restrain the solemnization of a child marriage Bill ....." The Bill is to restrain the solemnization of marriages and not the consummation of marriages. With regard to solemnization, certain ages were fixed in the original Act. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava by his amending Bill seeks to raise those ages and also to modify the punishment, as that was perfectly within the purview of the original Act and that of this Bill. Now my honourable friend, Mr. Sarwate says "omit all reference to 'solemnization' altogether and substitute the word 'consummation' in its place". This will be beyond the scope of the original Act as well as the amending Bill which Pandit Bhargava has moved, and I submit it is a very sound point of order which Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has raised. If my honourable friend, Mr. Sarwate or any other member of this House wishes to introduce new legislation that marriages may be solemnised at any age but should not be consummated up to a particular age, he may bring a new Bill before the House and the House will consider it on its merits. So far as this amending Bill is concerned, I submit the substitution of the word 'consummation' instead of 'solemnization' can not be allowed. The amendments are out of order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree with the point of order raised. The amendment seeks to alter the very nature not only of this Bill, but even of the original Act. The original Act was intended to restrain solemnization of child marriages as it is well known it is more difficult to prevent the consummation when once the marriage takes place and therefore the object will defeat itself and therefore it is restricted to solemnization. So far as this Bill is concerned, the amending Bill only relates to certain sections and in a particular manner and advantage cannot be taken of that amending Bill to introduce amendments to the original Act. These are matters which are not the subject matter of the amending Bill and on that also the honourable Member's amendments are out of order. Further in the order sheet the Honourable Mr. Sarwate wanted to substitute the word 'consumate' for the word 'solemnized' in the earlier section 2 which is the definite section. Now he has given that up. All the other clauses that follow are consequential namely, 3, 4, 5, 6. He has continued the same expression namely for the word 'contract' the word 'consummate' shall be used. From the preface to his very amendment it has struck me that all his amendments would be lost without a definition of that kind and we cannot understand what 'consummation' is. The word 'solemnisation' will continue in the definition section and consummation will be there in the later sections and on these grounds, I rule his amendments as out of order, not only his amendment No. 3 but all the other amendments.

The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Clause 4. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's amendment is only consequential. I thought he gave it up. I suppose he is not moving it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Not moving it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The whole clause 6 goes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amendment, be passed."

I do not want to take up the time of the House but would beg of the House to kindly pass it as soon as possible.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Referring to the way in which we have gone back on a decision which was more or less accepted, I wish to say that we have passed the whole thing in such a hurry. I am not sure if there are not incongruities in the way in which we have passed the various sections and since the attitude of the Government was made clear by the honourable Minister, Shri N. V. Gadgil, I think, Sir, the Bill should not be passed if necessary and if we think that any change is justified and the Government also agrees, there might be a fresh Bill which could be passed in one session. Therefore, I oppose the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN PENAL CODE AND THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

In regard to this Bill I have not to say much. The report of the Select Committee is unanimous and the report of the Age of Consent Committee is also absolutely unanimous on this point. Previously I could understand the Government's hesitation in agreeing to a Bill of this nature. But since we have passed the other Bill and made the marriageable age 15, there is no point in not making the age of consent fifteen. So far as the powers of the husband are concerned, they are on the same level as they should be according to the accepted notions of the relations between husband and wife. Now, the age being the same, if we succeed in seeing that the marriageable age is observed, there will be no occasion for this Bill coming into operation against any person.

In regard to this Bill there are two points to be noted in the report of the Select Committee. It did not agree to raise the age from 16 to 18 in regard to extra-marital relations. I am however of opinion on very good grounds that the age should be increased to 18. There is a large volume of opinion in favour of making it 18, instead of 16. For the purpose of sections, 366-A and 366-B the age is 18 and for the purpose of section 372 and 373 also the age is 18. The position is this: if a person entices away a woman or girl of the age below 18 and takes her to his home, then the law can be invoked against him under section 552. The girl can be set at liberty and the man punished under section 361 as amended by the Select Committee. But if a person goes to the ancestral house of a girl below 18 on being called and has intercourse with her he will not be guilty if the age is not increased to 18. So far as my amendment is concerned, I will see how the debate proceeds and then decide if I should move it. So far as the raising of the age from 13 to 15 goes, the report of the Select Committee is unanimous. And in this matter I have got the blessings of Honourable Sardar Patel also. When the Bill was sent to the country Sardar Patel told us that it was overdue, but he wanted the opinion of the country to be ascertained. When that opinion was received it was found to be 100 per cent. in favour. I do not want to take up the time of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): In this matter the decision of the Select Committee is almost unanimous and therefore I have nothing to say about it. As regards the point raised by Mr. Bhargava in his Minute of Dissent, I do not think the Government will be able to accept it at this stage. I do not think I need say anything more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I do not propose to move my amendment to clause 3. I however reserve my right to bring it by another Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I move:

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU MARRIAGES VALIDITY BILL

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in so far as this Bill is concerned,.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The honourable Member may go on slowly and audibly.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: When this Bill was sent to the Select Committee the entire House supported it. There was not a single dissentient voice excepting one on the basis that the Hindu Code Bill was coming. My submission is that if this Bill is passed, it will pave the way for the Hindu Code Bill. The provisions in both are absolutely the same. Before this Bill was introduced, the Arya Marriage Validation Act under which a member of the Arya Samaj could marry any person even of a different caste was in force in India. In Punjab today there are marriages between Jains and Hindus and there is absolutely no objection to that and the off-spring of the union is allowed to inherit. In the society there is absolutely no criticism of such marriages. Among Sikhs and Hindus today marriages are being performed without any objection and society accepts such marriages as valid. The only question that remains is whether according to the tenets of the Hindu law such marriages are valid or not. In regard to marriages between different sections of the same caste we have already passed a law, as also in regard to sagotra marriages, etc. That is the present condition of the law. Now, what this Bill seeks to say is that if marriages between Hindus, Sikhs and Jains and between the different castes and sub-castes take place, they will be valid and shall be deemed to have always been valid. That is the only one provision. This is an enabling provision. It does not force any person to have form of marriage. It only gives him liberty to have such marriages.

I would remind the House that a Bill of this nature was moved by the late President Patel in 1921 on almost these very lines. Today we have proceeded further in the direction of social reform and today this is the demand of the country. The country demands a classless society and does not want any restrictions between castes and religions so that marriages between members of the different religions may be solemnised. Today if a person wants to marry a member belonging to some community or religion other than his own he has to take shelter under the Civil Marriages Act. After this Bill becomes an Act he need not have recourse to that Act. Certain restrictions and disabilities now exist in regard to such marriages and all of them will be removed under the provision of this Bill.

Since this Bill has received such a reception I do not want to expatiate on the advantages of such marriages. I can only say that Mahatma Gandhi recognised the need for this and he married his son in accordance with the principles laid down here. Swami Shardhanand married all his children in castes other than in his own. Some of our other leaders have done so also. This is a Bill which will do good to our nation and this is a Bill of the first importance. After it is passed we will be able to say that we have given

effect to the principle of political equality in the Objective Resolution and other sections of the constitution whereas this measure if passed will constitute a Charter of social equality to all the different castes and religions.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I support this Bill. It is a reform which is long overdue and the House and the country will be grateful to the honourable Mover for bringing this Bill forward. There is a provision to give retrospective effect to the Bill which I think is absolutely necessary, and without which much of the benefit likely to follow from it would be lost. I therefore disagree with the note of dissent which you, Sir, have appended and I hope the provision about retrospective effect will be maintained.

As there are no amendments I suggest that we might save time by taking the whole Bill in a consolidated form and pass it.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): Sir, this Bill has the support of Government, which only illustrates how very progressive Government is. As the Bill is only permissive and undoubtedly of a progressive character, it would be foolish in this year of grace 1949 to say that marriages between different sub-castes among Hindus are bad. I am particularly happy that it was given to Dr. Deshmukh to see the day when a Bill making marriage of this character valid has been put on the statute-book and declared valid because he was a pioneer in this respect. So I hope that before the clock strikes Five this Bill will be put on the statute-book.

Shri Raj Bahadur (United State of Matsya): Sir, it has been aptly said that the Bill is of a permissive and enabling nature. It is also agreed upon in all sides that it was long overdue, and it is only meet and proper that it should be passed now. I feel that in the process of unification of our nation such measures are a dire necessity. I believe that for the complete solidarity of our nation we must eliminate the caste system, root, stalk and branch as early as possible. We know how during the course of our long history the caste system and caste prejudices have come in the way of our progress: In fact it has accounted for our slavery which extended for centuries. So when I say that this Bill is only of a permissive character I also say that I consider it only as a beginning in the right direction. It is not an end in itself but only a means to an end. I hope to live to see the day when there will be passed a more effective and stronger piece of legislation by this House enforcing that no young man or woman should be able to marry in the so-called caste to which he or she happens to belong. Until that is done it is almost impossible to unify the nation. I may, perhaps be saying this far in advance of the proper time, but I can emphatically state that that is the feeling among most of the people of my generation. We know how we have suffered because of the baneful effects of the caste system, and it was high time that we should take some step in this direction. Hence I welcome this bumble beginning in the form—or the present measure which is on the anvil of legislation. I hope we would very soon have another measure which will be still more effective in unifying our nation. The honourable Minister Mr. Gadgil said that Government's support of this Bill shows the progressive nature of Government. I know they are progressive but I want them to be still more progressive and bring in some stronger pieces of legislation, at their own initiative.

Sir, I welcome this measure and support it whole-heartedly.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka (West Bengal: General): Sir, in your note of dissent you say that marriage must be defined. I do not see why it should be defined because everybody understands what marriage is. I should like to understand your note of dissent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I meant was the marriage between people of different castes before this law would not be valid. For such invalid marriage no form of marriage has been given. It cannot be said that because they belong to different castes it cannot become invalid but they could not have gone through any form of marriage prescribed for these people. Therefore whatever might be the form of marriage it should be valid under this law. In the Shastras they did not provide for these inter-caste marriages because they did not contemplate such marriages. Therefore whatever form of marriage was gone through, whether under the Hindus Codes or not should be made valid. I will now put the question:

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide that marriages between Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and their different castes and sub-castes are valid, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Your view Sir, that since the form of marriage is not given here, it is doubtful whether any person will be able to take advantage of it is not right. My submission is that we know what the forms of marriage are.. Any form of marriage recognised by Hindu Law as applicable to Hindus. Jains and Sikhs will be regarded as a valid marriage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not to all Hindus!

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. The Hindu Law applies to Sikhs and Jains equally. Please consult page 59 of Gaurs Hindu Code and pages 88-89 of Maynes' Hindu Code. A number of instances are given on these pages to show that Sikhs and Jains are bound by the same law as the Hindus. So far as the question of the form of marriage is concerned, this is not doubtful. What the Bill aims at is this: that no marriage will be invalid on the basis that the parties are Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, or their Castes and sub-castes. It must be a marriage according to forms known to Hindu Law. This Bill goes to show that if the marriage.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the other hand they say that that is no marriage at all Take the case for adoption. Giving and taking is necessary. Now there is no adoption recognised amongst Muslims and they may bring in some law saying notwithstanding anything hitherto, there may be an adoption. But the essentials of adoption are not there. It is not provided for in the Muslim law. Here it is not contemplated that one caste may marry another caste.

No specified forms of marriage have been prescribed for such inter-caste marriages. Then what is the form of marriage that will be applicable? And if any particular form is not applicable it may not be considered a marriage at all.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Even today marriages take place between Jains and Hindus and Sikhs and there is no objection to such marriages. They are solemnized according to known principles and forms. After all the Hindu Law is not so barren as not to provide forms of marriages. Marriages are recognised as good among the sub-castes. But the marriages between Hindus and sub-castes were not previously valid. But since that was passed all these are recognised as good and the forms are as they were before. The House is fully aware how Mahabir Swami fought in his days for the eradication of castes. The Gurus of the Sikhs fought in the same way as Mahabir fought. Jains and Sikhs do not accept any caste distinction in theory. They cannot but accept it because they do not recognise any caste. So far as the Hindus are concerned, our ancient Shastras did not recognise any such caste based on birth. Did not Lord Krishna say:

चातुर्वर्ण्यं मया सृष्टं गुणकर्म विभाग

("I have created all the four castes according to respective quarters and actions)". This we have in the Gita. So we are reverting back to our own practices and we are not making any new change.

Today I feel very satisfied that we are doing the right thing and all those who have gone before us will feel satisfied that in this age when the National Government was in office, they accepted, promoted and recognised the validity of this Bill. Now where is the man in this country who will say that the Government are not taking absolutely a national view in all such matters? The passage of this Bill is an example of Swaraj in practice. I submit that the Government have done the right thing in accepting this Bill and again I congratulate the House, and I cannot finish my speech without again reminding the House of the great service which our President Patel, whose picture I find there, did in regard to this aspect of our marriage laws. He is the original mover of this Bill and if tradition allows, I would like to call this Bill the Patel Hindu Marriages Validity Bill.

Today we are in a position to pass this Bill without a dissentient voice. I once again congratulate the whole House because they have taken this Bill in the right spirit.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I congratulate my friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava for having gained the triple crown of having had, as a non-official member, three non-official Bills passed on the same day. My honourable friend Dr. Hari Singh Gour, I am glad to see is also present today. He has been the father of all such social reforms.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: He is the virtual father of these Bills.

Shri B. Das: I do not know what will be the result of this Bill but I somehow feel in these days of liberty and licence in our youth a lot of mischief is liable to be done but not being a lawyer I do not worry my head over it. It is for my friends Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and other lawyer friends like Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava and others to settle the points of law that may arise hereafter. I once again congratulate Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava on his triple success.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If honourable Members want to finish this Bill today they must be quick and speak for one minute each.

श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू : चेयरमैनजी, मैं इस प्रस्तुत विधि का स्वागत करता हूं। लेकिन स्वागत करते हुए भी मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि अभी आज हिन्दू, सिख और जैन आदि कास्ट्स और सब कास्ट्स जो हैं उनमें जो शादी होगी वह शादी अनुमतिसूचक कर दी गई है। लेकिन मैं तो सोचता हूं कि इसमें मुसलमान और कृश्चियन भी होते तो क्या हर्ज था। उनके इसमें आ जाने से मुझे और भी आनंद होता क्योंकि आज तो सभी चाहते हैं कि जात पात खत्म हो जाय। हम लोग चाहते हैं कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में कोई भी हिन्दू मुसलमान इत्यादि नहीं रहे। सब इन्डियन हों। इस लिये मैं चाहता हूं कि यह शब्दावली और भी जोड़ देते तो अच्छा होता।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): I welcome this Bill. While doing so, I should like to say that now when the marriages between Hindus, Sikhs and Jains and their different castes and sub-castes have been made valid; I think that there was no harm if the 'Muslims' and 'Christians' too had been included in this Bill. It would have given me great pleasure if they had been brought within the scope of this Bill, because to-day every body wants that the Caste System should be abolished. We want that none should be called as Hindu or Muslim etc. throughout the whole of India. Every one should be called an Indian. Therefore, I feel that it would have been much better if these words had also been included in this Bill.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi): I join my friend, Mr. B. Das in congratulating my friend Thakur Das Bhargava on the great service that he has rendered by putting forth these Bills with such vehemence. I wish to point out that it has been emphasised that this is an enabling Bill. I wish to emphasize that full advantage should be taken of this and I do hope the country will take the fullest advantage of it and that it will not remain an enabling Bill and that we will see that all castes and sub-castes will inter-marry and thus bring to an end the curse of the caste-system.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 5th April, 1949.